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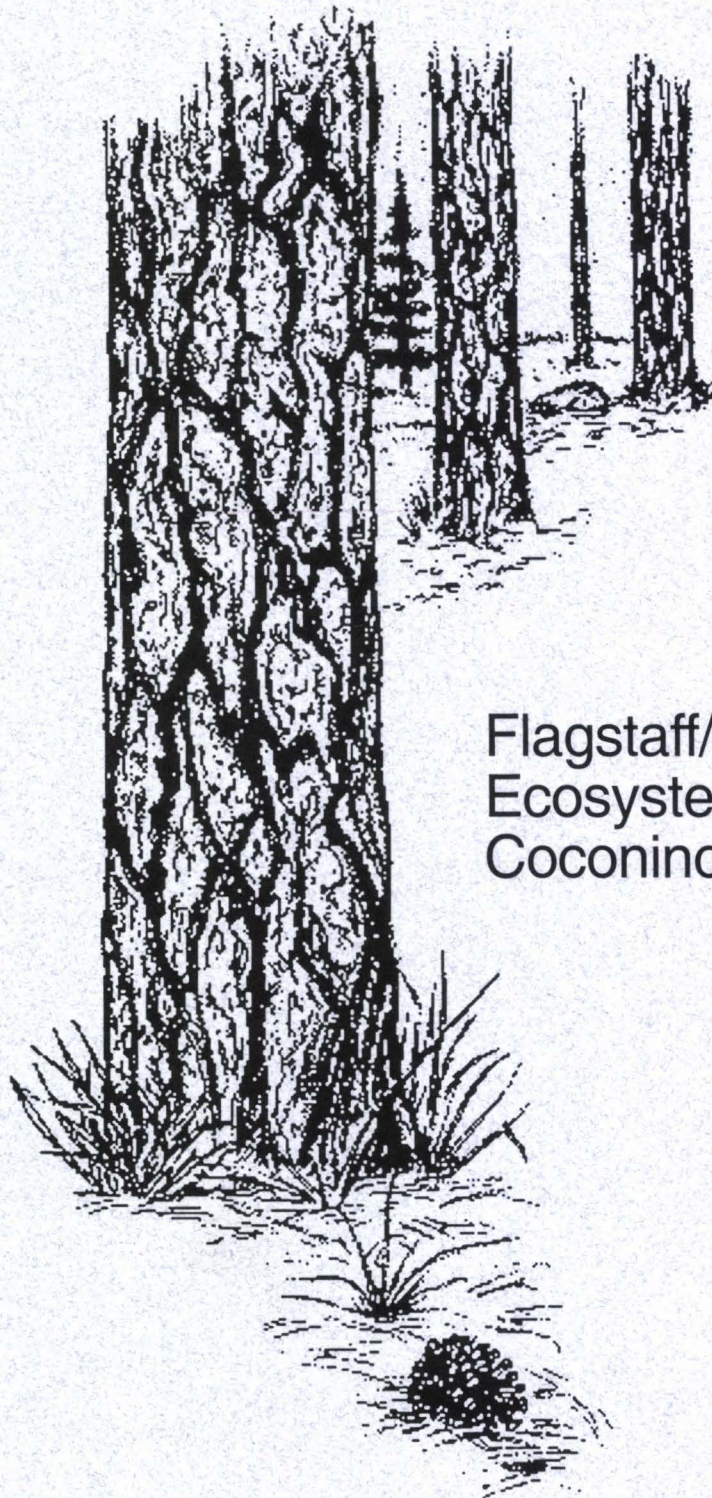
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Southwestern
Region



Proposed Action to Amend the Coconino Forest Plan



Flagstaff/Lake Mary
Ecosystem Analysis,
Coconino National Forest

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United States
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Forest
Service

Coconino
National Forest,
Supervisor's Office

2323 E. Greenlaw Lane
Flagstaff, AZ 86004-1810
Phone: (928) 527-3600
Fax: (928) 527-3620

File Code: 1950

Date: October 12, 2001

Dear Participant:

It has been quite a long time since we last contacted you about the *Flagstaff/Lake Mary Ecosystem Analysis* or commonly known as FLEA. Enclosed you will find the *Proposed Action to Amend the Coconino Forest Plan – Flagstaff/Lake Mary Ecosystem Analysis*.

This Proposed Action is 75 pages long and is written as actual Forest Plan replacement pages. If you would like additional copies of the entire Proposed Action, you may visit our web site www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino, then click on NEPA and scroll down the page until you locate the document. You may also request a hardcopy from either Alvin Brown or Debbie Kill at (928) 526-0866.

FLEA has been an identified project for 4 years. Over that period of time the scope of the project has changed quite a bit. The ID Team did a lot of iterative scoping with you and others in order to craft the Proposed Action (PA) for the management of lands surrounding Flagstaff Arizona. Some site-specific projects have been separated from the PA and are either proceeding on their own, or are waiting for a proponent. One of the larger scale topics (off-road driving policy) has been removed from FLEA, because it is now part of a concurrent multi-forest project. The remaining topics are focused on a reduction of the fire hazard, and a response to increased recreational use and demands. Much of the PA is clarification or slight adjustments to existing direction. There were some topics upon which the Plan was silent, and new plan language is proposed. In addition, new management areas have been identified with varying management emphases. Our goal is to create consistent direction with the strength and longevity of Forest Plan status.

Determining alternatives to this proposal will be based solely on comments received in response to the PA. I appreciated all the comments received in the past, and my staff will continue to reference them for this and other projects. However, at this stage of the process, it is important that you provide comments addressed specifically to the PA. Please be as specific as you can about your positive or negative concerns. These comments will be used to identify significant issues that will be the basis for alternatives considered in our future environmental disclosure document (Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement). An issue is defined as a point of disagreement with **this** Proposed Action based on some anticipated effect.



Participant

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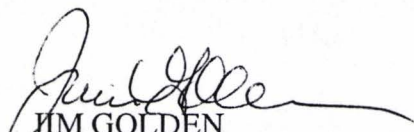
Although there is no legal time period associated with Proposed Actions, your written comments would be most effective if we received them by **November 15, 2001**. We expect to release the next formal document in January, but that will depend on the number and variety of comments we receive from you and others. A final decision is expected in late spring.

We are planning an **Open House on October 22**, 4 to 8 p.m. at the Coconino National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 2323 E. Greenlaw Lane. Members of the ID Team will be available to answer questions and larger scale maps will be posted for viewing.

Please mail your comments to Coconino National Forest, Attention: FLEA, 2323 E Greenlaw Lane, Flagstaff, AZ 86004. Comments may be e-mailed to dkill@fs.fed.us. For questions contact Alvin Brown or Debbie Kill at (928) 526-0866.

Thank you for your interest in the Coconino National Forest.

Sincerely,



JIM GOLDEN
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

ERRATA SHEET

Proposed Action to Amend the Coconino Forest Plan
Flagstaff/Lake Mary Ecosystem Analysis
October 12, 2001

To correct the acreage figure listed on page 3

Ownership	Acres
National Forest Lands	300,423
National Park Lands	6,036
Other Federal Lands	305
State Lands	20,726
City	2,371
County	394
Private	45,723
TOTAL	375,978

Correction on page 42 - Cinder Hills OHV - MA 13

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	2,868
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	0
Pinyon-juniper	0
Unsuitable	2,703
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	3,775
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	0
Suitable Timber lands	4,302
TOTAL	13,648

Correction on page 49 - Craters

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	4,642
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	0
Pinyon-juniper	2
Unsuitable	19,384
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	4,425
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	11
Suitable Timber lands	1,395
TOTAL	29,859

Correction on page 51 - Deadman Wash

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	3,198
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	0
Pinyon-juniper	76
Unsuitable	45,363
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	5,839
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	360
Suitable Timber lands	3,012
TOTAL	57,848

Correction on page 54 - Doney

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	7,842
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	0
Pinyon-juniper	0
Unsuitable	15,188
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	3,681
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	87
Suitable Timber lands	14,006
TOTAL	40,804

Correction on page 56 - Flagstaff

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	241
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	24
Pinyon-juniper	0
Unsuitable	0
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	15
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	39
Suitable Timber lands	1029
TOTAL	1,348

Correction on page 59 - Lake Mary

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	5,936
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	309
Pinyon-juniper	94
Unsuitable	4,036
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	6,958
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	204
Suitable Timber lands	45,011
TOTAL	62,548

Correction on page 63 - Schultz

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	243
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	0
Pinyon-juniper	0
Unsuitable	1,144
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	7,993
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	72
Suitable Timber lands	11,833
TOTAL	21,285

Correction on page 66 - Special Areas – Environmental Study Areas – MA 17

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	59
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	0
Pinyon-juniper	0
Unsuitable	96
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	252
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	399
Suitable Timber lands	780
TOTAL	1,586

Correction on page 71 - Walnut

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	973
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	0
Pinyon-juniper	0
Unsuitable	5,063
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	5,717
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	137
Suitable Timber lands	8,838
TOTAL	20,728

Correction on page 75 - West

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	1,820
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	3,570
Pinyon-juniper	0
Unsuitable	255
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	4,207
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	180
Suitable Timber lands	30,206
TOTAL	40,238

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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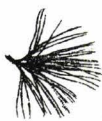
Chapter One - Introduction..... 1

Introduction.....	1
Where is FLEA?.....	3
Summary of this Proposed Action	4
Background Information On The Laws And Regulations Related To Forest Plans.....	10
Definitions for Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines.....	11
Coordinating Requirements	12
Mission Statement.....	12
Outputs and Range of Implementation	12
Background Information On Other Planning Efforts In The Region.....	13



Chapter 2 – Area-Wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines..... 14

Introduction.....	14
Zones	14
Recreation Opportunity Setting (ROS)	15
Visitor Information Services	16
Recreation	17
Camping	17
Outfitter/Guides.....	19
Group Use	20
Rock Climbing	21
Non-motorized Trails	23
Motorized Trails.....	25
Scenery	26
Roads and Off Road Driving	26
Wildlife Habitat.....	29
Threatened and Endangered Species.....	31
Land Exchange.....	31
Forestry	32
Noxious Weeds	34
Watershed.....	35
Mountain Meadows.....	36
Riparian and Open Water.....	37
Firewood	38
Coordination with National Park Service	38
Coordination with Researchers	38
Data Management	39



Chapter Three – Management Areas	40
Proposed Management Areas.....	40
Cinder Hills Off Highway Vehicle Area – MA 13	41
Craters Management Area.....	48
Deadman Wash Management Area.....	50
Doney Management Area	53
Flagstaff Management Area.....	56
Lake Mary Watershed Management Area	57
Schultz Management Area	62
Special Areas - MA 17 – Environmental Study Areas	65
Walnut Management Area	69
West Management Area.....	73



Chapter One - Introduction

Introduction

This Proposed Action for the Flagstaff/Lake Mary Ecosystem Analysis Area, (Proposed Action) contains changes and clarification for our current Forest Plan. These proposals are focused on changing direction where we have heard the greatest needs for change. The overall goals and objectives of the Forest Plan continue to guide our management. Since the mid-80's, when the Forest Plan was originally written, we have had many amendments, which made either very minor changes in direction or more major shifts. The Flagstaff/Lake Mary Ecosystem Analysis (FLEA) Amendment needs to be considered within the context of the entire amended Forest Plan. It is not intended to be a stand alone document.

In May of 1999, we published the Ideas for Change, which described a wide range of proposals and background information. Many people provided comments to the Ideas for Change. You will notice that many of the topics discussed in the Ideas for Change were not carried forward in this Proposed Action (PA). As we conducted further analysis, and as priorities for analysis efforts changed on the Coconino National Forest, we narrowed the scope of FLEA. Some proposals have been implemented already via site-specific NEPA analysis. A few items were set aside as not meeting the Forest Service mission and goals. It also became clear that some items really did not require changes in the Forest Plan to be implemented, and others did not have an overriding need for change at this time. Since publication of the Ideas for Change, other planning efforts have begun and we have deferred some topics to these other analyses (see list at the end of this chapter).

This Proposed Action describes management direction that was missing entirely from the current Forest Plan, or that provides clarification or adds emphasis to certain aspects of managing the FLEA area. The management areas proposed in the Ideas for Change have been changed and re-described to provide a geographical reference and a sense of place related to adjacent communities. In addition, an Urban/Rural Influence Zone crosses management areas near developed private land. Meeting the unique management challenges on National Forest lands near urban areas is a large part of this Proposed Action.

There is very little site-specific direction here. Please remember that the purpose of this amendment is general management direction that will be referenced when we plan and implement site-specific projects. Topics include: Forest Settings, Camping, Outfitter Guides, Group Use, Rock Climbing, Trails, Scenery, Roads, Wildlife Habitat (including Mexican spotted owls and goshawks), Land Exchange, Forestry, Noxious Weeds, Watershed, Mountain Meadows, Riparian, Firewood, National Park Service Coordination, Research Coordination, and Data Management, Cinder Hills OHV area, Lakes Mary, Environmental Study and Management Areas.

*FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter One – Introduction*

These replacement pages are organized as Goals and Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines. Chapter Two applies to the entire FLEA area. Chapter Three contains descriptions and direction unique to each Management Area. This document is written as replacement pages for the Forest Plan so you can see what we intend to add to the Plan. You will also find background notes written in italics that summarize additional explanation and rationale. The italic sentences will be removed from the final replacement page before it is placed in the Forest Plan.

*For your comments to be most helpful they need to be clear and as specific to the PA as possible. If your comments are directly linked to a specific part of the PA, please indicate the page number(s) and paragraph(s). After we have studied your comments, we will then identify issues, from which we will develop alternatives. An issue is defined as a point of disagreement or debate with **this** PA, based on some anticipated effect. The effects of the alternatives, including the Proposed Action and current management, will be disclosed in an environmental analysis document with a decision expected early summer 2002.*

In an effort to make this document shorter, we did not include the background information presented in the Ideas for Change. Copies of the Ideas for Change are located at the Flagstaff and NAU public libraries. The Ideas for Change is also located at our website (address below).

Some of you may be interested in reviewing the current Forest Plan. Forest Plans are available at the Flagstaff and NAU public libraries and copies may be requested from the Coconino Supervisor's Office. There have been many amendments since the Forest Plan's adoption in 1987. It is important to obtain all the pages from the amendments to have a complete and accurate copy. Contact Katherine Farr at (928) 527-3411 to obtain copies of the Plan or its amendments.

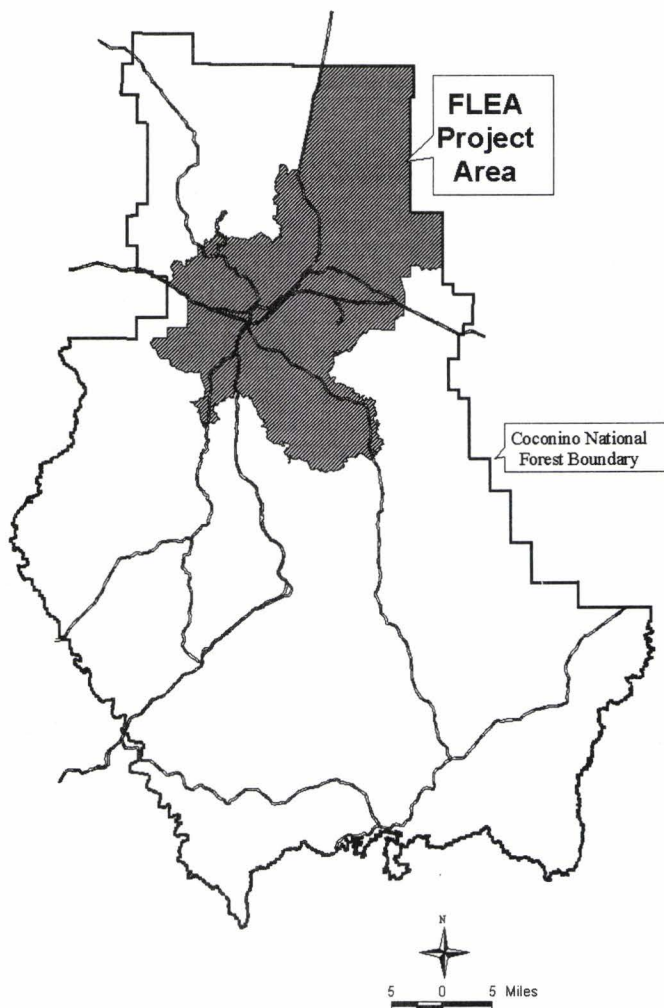
If you have questions about the information presented here, or would like to view larger scale maps, please contact Alvin Brown or Debbie Kill at the Peaks District Office, (928) 526-0866.

Please mail your comments to Jim Golden, Forest Supervisor, Attention FLEA, 2323 E. Greenlaw Lane, Flagstaff, AZ 86004. You may send your comments via e-mail to dkill@fs.fed.us. Please note that these proposed text changes apply to the FLEA area only. Comments are most helpful if received by November 5, 2001.

The text of this Proposed Action and the Ideas for Change is located on the Coconino Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino Click on the Management page, then the NEPA page.

Where is FLEA?

The Flagstaff/Lake Mary Ecosystem Analysis (FLEA) Area surrounds the City of Flagstaff, and the Coconino County communities of Doney Park, Fort Valley, Kachina Village/Forest Highlands, Lake Mary Road, and Mountainaire. It also includes the Lake Mary watershed and lands between Sunset Crater Volcano and Wupatki National Monuments. Land features within the analysis area include Mt. Elden, the Dry Lake Hills, numerous cinder cones that make up the San Francisco volcanic field, Walnut Canyon, Pumphouse Wash, Woody Ridge, Observatory Mesa, and A-1 Mountain. There are approximately 291,472 acres of National Forest land within the FLEA area. This Proposed Action is for National Forest lands only



Summary of this Proposed Action

The following table is a summary of the *Proposed Action to Amend the Coconino Forest Plan for the Flagstaff/Lake Mary Ecosystem Analysis (FLEA) area (Proposed Action)*. The first column in the table below is a topic area, the second column is a brief summary of the proposal for that topic, and the third column is a brief description of why the proposal is made. See the maps at the end of this document.

Topic	Summary of Proposal	Summary of Purpose and Need (why)
Urban/ Rural Influence Zone	A zone is created within approximately ½ mile of private lands. Some proposed management direction applies only to this zone. See the <i>Urban/Rural Influence Zone</i> map.	The majority of urban influences occur within approximately ½ mile of private land. Influences include social trails, utility corridors, private land access roads, dogs, cats, and other pets, and some trash dumping. There is a high risk of fire ignition. Most catastrophic fires can be prevented (suppressed before they become crown fires) or “caught” within this zone if climatic conditions are not extreme and forest conditions are conducive to ground fire. Because a wildfire in this zone could travel onto private property, and because a fire originating in this area could impact important forest resources, this zone has the highest priority for fire risk reduction.
Forest Settings - Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)	There is an increase in Semi-primitive Motorized and Semi-primitive Nonmotorized ROS settings. These objectives guide management. See the <i>Objectives for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Map</i>	Semi-primitive Motorized and Semi-primitive Nonmotorized settings best fit the desired forest experience as described by many people. There is a high degree of naturalness, a sense of exploration and “getting away” from the sights and sounds of the urban environment. In addition, some wildlife species need large tracts of unfragmented habitat and infrequent contacts with people, especially when they rear their young.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter One – Introduction

Topic	Summary of Proposal	Summary of Purpose and Need (why)
Camping	There is an expansion of the area where overnight camping is not allowed. There are new areas where camping may occur in designated sites only (the Highway 89A corridor, Lake Mary and Marshall Lake, Mt Elden, and the Dry Lake Hills). General dispersed camping continues in much of the FLEA area. See the <i>Objectives for Camping</i> map. Although the 89A corridor was evaluated for a possible campground, a suitable site was not found.	Near developed private lands, overnight camping increases the risk of fire ignition. In some areas, daytime use is already so high that overnight use is no longer compatible. Dispersed camping is causing unacceptable resource impacts in popular locations. Some nocturnal wildlife species, such as Mexican spotted owls, are negatively impacted by nighttime activities. Partnerships with other agencies, or individuals should be supported to reach solutions for campground needs for people traveling on Highway 89A.
Outfitter/ Guides and Group Use	There is an added emphasis on services and uses that meet desired conditions, and a change from a policy of receiving proposals to a policy of requesting proposals.	Some areas already receive so much use by individuals that adding outfitter/guides and groups could detract from recreation experience and ecological well-being. Soliciting outfitter/guide proposals is more efficient than responding to requests.
Rock Climbing	New direction for climbing emphasizes climbing opportunities, protecting sensitive species, and managing concurrent uses such as camping, roads, and trails. There is a focus on gaining input from climbers.	Direction related to climbing is lacking in the <i>Forest Plan</i> . Although many of the impacts related to popular climbing sites can be improved by changing roads, trails, camping, and other uses, there is a need for guidelines specifically related to climbing. Climbing tends to occur in ecologically sensitive areas.
Scenery	Additional language builds on the current <i>Forest Plan</i> with a focus on scenic quality associated with fuel treatments, major highways, and the National Monuments.	Concurrent with an increase in treatment of fire fuels reduction and highway projects there is a need to continue coordination to maintain aesthetics. Recreation sites and the National Monuments rely on natural appearing backdrops for visitor experience.
Noxious Weeds	An emphasis on noxious weeds management is added.	The Forest is already taking steps to curb noxious weeds. This addition brings the <i>Forest Plan</i> more up to date on this topic.
Land Exchange	Land Acquisition and Disposition guidance remains virtually the same with additional recognition of ongoing local planning efforts.	Current criteria work well for the FLEA area. Ongoing local planning efforts are recognized. Public comments received in response to the <i>Ideas for Change</i> and related to the <i>Flagstaff Area Open Spaces and Greenways Plan</i> have been forwarded to the city of Flagstaff.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter One – Introduction

Topic	Summary of Proposal	Summary of Purpose and Need (why)
Trails	Trail planning focuses more active management of user created trails in the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. Criteria for trails management are established. This proposal sets the stage for future site-specific trail planning with community input. The proposal builds on the current <i>Forest Plan</i> for motorized trails including “pass through” corridors that connect to long distance trails and secondary roads. Motocross sites are not established.	Current management direction in the <i>Forest Plan</i> is lacking for social trails. Social trails are numerous, and sometimes located in places that cause erosion, wildlife disturbance, or add to overall soil compaction. More active management of social trail use is needed to maintain aesthetics, recreation opportunity, and forest health near urban areas. There is a need to find a feasible middle ground between very little management and detailed planning on every acre. People have expressed a need for motorized trail opportunities, including connections to the secondary road system. Motocross is a concentrated use that does not maintain a site in a natural forest conditions.
Roads and Off Road Driving	The current list of reasons for closing or obliterating roads has been retained and additional criteria have been added related to affordability, redundant roads, noxious weeds, fire risk, the ROS objectives, and the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. A second list of reasons to keep roads open is added related to recreation, utilities, administration, research, community values, and economics. The question of access policy, i.e. open unless designated closed roads, versus closed unless designated open roads, is not addressed here, rather we have deferred to the <i>Arizona OHV Forest Plan Amendment</i> .	Roads cause physical effects to the landscape and roads concentrate the impacts of human use. Roads help achieve or detract from a forest setting depending on how they are designed. Roads provide access to recreation opportunities and forest products. The <i>Forest Plan</i> did not have a list of reasons for maintaining roads open, and such a list is helpful for future road decisions. Although the benefits of a different road policy have been discussed in this analysis, we chose to defer this question of off road driving policy to the <i>Arizona OHV Forest Plan Amendment</i> process ¹ .
Firewood	Firewood gathering is limited to selected areas only within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone.	Firewood gathering is best conducted under a more managed setting in designated areas in the Urban/Rural Influence zone.

¹ For more information about the *Arizona OHV Forest Plan Amendment* contact Jim Anderson at (928) 333-6370 or e-mail janderson08@fs.fed.us

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter One – Introduction

Topic	Summary of Proposal	Summary of Purpose and Need (why)
Wildlife Habitat – Goshawks	Goshawk guidelines remain virtually the same with some clarification related to human uses in goshawk habitat.	The bulk of the FLEA area falls under definitions for goshawk habitat and consists of a majority of pole size ponderosa pine trees. Goshawk habitat thinning guidelines for pole size trees are compatible with fire management needs, even in the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. Guidelines related to recreation and other human uses fail to consider social trails and other activities common adjacent to urban areas so additional clarification was needed.
Wildlife Habitat – Mexican spotted owls	This proposal endorses the future forest described in the <i>Forest Plan</i> , including guidelines for Mexican spotted owls except to de-emphasize Mexican spotted owl habitat in the Urban/Rural Influence Zone.	Future Mexican spotted owl habitat is not desirable in the Urban/Rural Influence zone for two reasons: 1) their habitat requires dense canopies and multi-layered structure which is not compatible with fire risk reduction and 2) high levels of human use can disturb nesting birds and cause them to abandon areas. The two current areas where owls live, that lie partially within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone (Dry Lake Hills), will be maintained.
Forestry – fire risk reduction	Additional emphasis is added for reducing fire risk in the Urban/Rural Influence Zone.	Most catastrophic wildfires can be prevented (suppressed before they become crown fires), or “caught” within the ½ mile of private land if forest conditions are right. A focus on fuels management (thinning and prescribed fire) within this zone can reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. Wildfire can cause loss of personal property and valued forest resources.
Forestry – big game hiding and thermal cover	Big-game hiding and thermal cover guidelines are relaxed for the Urban/Rural Influence Zone and land south and west of that zone.	Cover requirements listed in the <i>Forest Plan</i> are too inflexible for meeting a combination of wildlife and fire management needs in the Urban/Rural Influence Zone and lands in lands to the southwest in the Urban Interface as depicted on the Fire Management Analysis Zones map.
Watershed, Mountain Meadows, And Riparian	Additional language adds emphasis for water quality to management activities in the Lake Mary and Oak Creek watersheds. Paragraphs provide more up-to-date terminology and a more clear description of desired conditions for meadows and riparian areas, emphasizing the importance of these areas to the ecosystem and the need to continue efforts to rehabilitate and limit impacts.	Awareness of water quality in the Lake Mary and Oak Creek Watersheds has increased. Community and recreation demands and values are higher and more varied then when the Forest Plan was written. There is a strong tie between mountain meadows, springs, and stream channels and water quality. Although the Forest Plan permits most management activities needed, a better description and emphasis is needed for these components of the landscape.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter One – Introduction

Topic	Summary of Proposal	Summary of Purpose and Need (why)
National Park Service	Coordination items related to the National Park Service are described.	The National Park Service has indicated coordination needs.
Coordination with Researchers and Data Management	Coordination with researchers and an emphasis on electronic data are added.	In the past, project design has failed to take into account research plots, including some long-term study areas. Better coordination will reduce the change of losing research data and better sharing of research results. The <i>Forest Plan</i> does not have language for data management, especially newer options such as databases and electronic mapping.

The following table summarizes the management area proposals. See the *Proposed Management Areas* map. All Management Area direction builds on the current *Forest Plan* and the area-wide direction described above.

Management Area (MA)	Summary of Proposal	Summary of Purpose and Need (why)
Cinder Hills Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area	The Cinder Hills OHV area will provide quality OHV riding experiences while maintaining the landscape. Sanitation and camping facilities are increased to provide for use. Some slopes would be closed for viewsheds, and to protect some geologic features related to Sunset Crater NM, while improved roads help distribute use in the interior. More active management includes better signing, maintenance, and patrol.	There is a need to provide quality OHV riding experiences on the Forest. There is a need to increase the quality of facilities. Current use is concentrated where improved roads exist, with less distribution of riders than is desirable. Some areas are important to protect for their geologic importance related to Sunset Crater. Some slopes impact viewsheds as seen from Sunset Crater Volcano NM and local communities.
Craters	Focus on protection of large Cinder cones.	Large Cinder cones that lie outside of the OHV area occur in this MA and the Deadman MA. They provide unique landscape features, scenery and traditional cultural values.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter One – Introduction

Management Area (MA)	Summary of Proposal	Summary of Purpose and Need (why)
Deadman	Continue grassland restoration and cultural site protection efforts. Maintain sensitive resources on O’Leary Peak.	Large Cinder cones, especially O’Leary Peak have sensitive species habitat and traditional cultural values that need to be maintained. Recreation use of O’Leary could increase over time and proactive management is needed. Grasslands south of Wupatki provide important habitat for antelope and other grassland adapted species. Cultural sites in the area are tied to cultural sites within the Monuments.
Doney	Focus on road and trail planning, access points from communities, fire risk reduction.	This area is a high priority for road and trail planning with community involvement.
Flagstaff	This MA contains about 1,000 acres of National Forest land near developed areas of Flagstaff. New direction for these lands adds emphasis on community needs and eventual disposal from of National Forest Ownership.	Lands here are desirable for community purposes such as regional parks, airport expansion and community development as described in the Regional Land Use Transportation Plan.
Lake Mary Watershed	Stream channels and meadows are earmarked for restoration related to water quality. High levels of recreation activity continue on the FH3 side of the Lakes Mary, and less human activity on the opposite side to provide for wildlife. Marshall Lake is improved with an emphasis on waterfowl nesting habitat. Semi-primitive areas provide large tracts of unfragmented habitat for disturbance sensitive wildlife such as turkey and bear. More sanitation facilities and parking management are proposed. Wildlife viewing is provided.	Current sanitation facilities are inadequate. When people park outside of established parking areas there is soil impacts, safety concerns and an unplanned addition to use. Some stream channels and meadows are in degraded conditions adding to erosion into the Lakes. People enjoy the Lakes for recreation. This area is a high priority for road maintenance for water quality reasons.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter One – Introduction

Management Area (MA)	Summary of Proposal	Summary of Purpose and Need (why)
Schultz	The Mt Elden/Dry Hills area changes to camping in designated sites only. Trailhead parking is adjusted slightly. The current trail system is maintained and continues to balance recreation demands with resource values. Motorized trails are not emphasized here.	Current daytime recreation levels are high. There is habitat here for the threatened Mexican Spotted Owl, and other wildlife like turkey and bear. Some camping sites are impacting soils, and threatened species. Trailhead parking areas are eroding. People expressed a desire to maintain the popular non-motorized Dry Lake Hills Trail system. Motorized access occurs on forest roads. The current trail system is at capacity for what the area can support in terms of visitor experience and wildlife habitat.
Special Areas for Environmental Study	One current Environmental Study Area is endorsed and slightly expanded. Two more are added to become part of MA 17 (special areas). These sites provide daytime recreation opportunity and outdoor classrooms. These are Mt Elden ESA, Old Caves Crater ESA, and Griffith Springs ESA.	The current ESA at Mt Elden is working well, but does not extend to lands behind Christiansen School. Two new areas have been used by teachers as outdoor classrooms and have unique environmental and prehistoric features that make them valuable for that purpose.
Walnut	Expand the primitive and semi-primitive settings in and around Walnut Canyon. Balance recreation demands with sensitive resources associated with the canyon. Focus on road and trail planning and fire risk reduction near communities.	Walnut Canyon supports a variety of vegetation and wildlife including riparian communities at the canyon bottom. Recreation demands increase as Flagstaff grows.
West	Focus on road and trail planning, access points from communities, fire risk reduction. Increase semi-primitive non-motorized settings on Woody Ridge and A-1 mountain. Take steps to limit impacts in Pumphouse wash.	Prevailing winds are usually from the southwest so it is important to reduce risk of wildfire in this MA. Important wildlife travelways and habitat for bear and turkey occur on Woody Ridge and A-1 mountain. Some people have expressed interest in more walk-in hunting opportunities. Because of the interspersed land ownership, road and trail planning in a high priority.

Background Information On The Laws And Regulations Related To Forest Plans

National Forest System Land and Resource Management Planning regulations, 36 CFR Part 219, set forth a process for developing, adopting, and revising land and resource management plans. It states “the resulting plans shall provide for multiple-use and sustained-yield of goods and service... in a way that maximizes long-term net public benefits in an environmentally sound manner”. Plans determine resource management practices, levels of resource production, and management and

availability and suitability of lands for resource management. The Forest Plan is a permissive document, which allows activities to occur rather than requiring activities to occur. There are 6 decisions that Forest Plans make. These are based on laws, regulations, and clarification from litigation. A Forest Plan establishes:

Forest-wide multiple-use goals and objectives - Most of the Forest-wide goals and objectives will remain the same, with some refined goals and objectives language specific to the FLEA area.

Management Area direction - New MA's have been created or original MA's have been adjusted.

Lands suited/not suited for resource use and production - We will not review suitability for timber or range under the FLEA process, as that is more appropriate for the Forest Plan revision, that is currently scheduled to begin no sooner than 2005.

Forest-wide management - We have reviewed forest-wide standards and guidelines and developed additional management direction for the FLEA area.

Monitoring and evaluation - Current monitoring and evaluation in the Forest Plan will be retained and additional items are added for the FLEA area.

Recommendations for wilderness or wild and scenic rivers - There are no recommended changes for management direction for wilderness (Strawberry Crater Wilderness lies within the FLEA area).

Definitions for Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines

Goals

A goal is defined as "a concise statement that describes a desired condition to be achieved sometime in the future... it has no specific date by which it is to be completed." (36CFR219.3). Goals have been identified for each resource element.

Objectives

An objective is defined as "a concise, time-specific statement of measurable, planned results that responds to pre-established goals" (36CFR219.3). Forest objectives are quantitative; they can be measured. They are completed in a given time and with a given budget level. The objectives are needed to meet mission and goal statements and are consistent with the missions and goals. Objectives are the annual activities implemented to accomplish the goals and to help address the issues.

Standards²

Standards are limitations on management activities, a principle requiring a specific level of attainment, and a rule to measure against. Standards are limited to those actions that are within the authority and ability of the agency to meet or enforce. 1) Standards are the basis for determining whether a project is consistent with the forest

² This definition has been used for previous Forest Plan Amendments on the Coconino National Forest Amendment 12, page 274

plan as required by 219.11(a). 2) Project compliance with relevant standards is mandatory. A project that would vary from a relevant standard may not be authorized, unless the forest plan is amended to modify, remove, or waive application of the standard.

Guidelines³

Guidelines describe a preferred or advisable course of action, desired policy or conduct. Variation of a project from a guideline does not trigger a forest plan amendment. Guidelines may be used for the following purposes: 1) To describe a preferred or advisable method for conducting resource activities specific to the forest plan area and 2) to describe a preferred or advisable sequence or priority for implementing various types of projects when such guidance is deemed useful in facilitating achievement of a forest plan goal.

Coordinating Requirements

The Coordinating Requirements section of the current Coconino Forest Plan describes Integrated Resource Management (IRM) as an interdisciplinary approach to project design and implementation that recognizes the complex biological, administrative, and political interrelationships on the Coconino National Forest. In addition, Integrated Stand Management (ISM) is a concept for designing complex vegetation treatments by identifying the stand (or portion of a stand) to be treated and incorporating within its unique treatment prescription consideration for all the appropriate resources. ISM also recognizes that all vegetative communities within a given area are interrelated and therefore, stands that are proposed for treatment must be INTEGRATED with each other and with the surrounding area.

Mission Statement

As stated on page 21 of the Forest Plan “A mission is a guiding principle toward which activities focus and contribute.”... “The mission of the Forest Service is to manage National Forest lands and resources using the best systems available to meet the needs and desires of present and future generations, while protecting and enhancing the environment and effectively and efficiently administering Forest programs. Conflicts over allocating resources are inevitable and will increase. The management challenge is to be responsive, equitable, efficient, and understanding in making resource management decisions.”

Outputs and Range of Implementation

There are forces that can affect the production of outputs and implementation rates, such as weather, budget appropriations from Congress, local economies, and political decisions. This amendment, in conjunction with the current Forest Plan is used as the basis for developing budget proposals. The FLEA area is only a portion of the Forest and priorities for FLEA will be balanced with other Forest priorities.

³ This definition has been used for previous Forest Plan Amendments on the Coconino National Forest Amendment 12, page 272

Background Information On Other Planning Efforts In The Region

Other planning efforts in the Region are listed below with a note about their relationship to the FLEA process.

Arizona OHV Forest Plan Amendment – We have deferred changes to the off-road travel and travel management to this analysis. This analysis is running parallel to FLEA. Contact: Jim Anderson (928) 333-6370 – janderson08@fs.fed.us

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Forest Plan Amendment – This proposal will amend Region 3's forest plan standards and guidelines for Mexican spotted owl and northern goshawk as to their applicability within wildland-urban interface areas. This analysis is running parallel to FLEA. Contact: Ron Pugh(505) 842-3256

Roads Analysis Report – FLEA Area – This proposed action contains **criteria** for road management. The Roads Analysis for the FLEA area, applies these criteria in the form of a database and map. Subsequent site-specific NEPA analysis will make decisions about the future management of any particular road. The Roads Analysis for the FLEA Area is a document that outlines desired known open road network and maintenance levels based on the FLEA analysis; it is not a NEPA decision.

Roads Analysis – Maintenance Level Three and Above – Coconino and Kaibab National Forests – Information from the FLEA roads analysis will be available for this analysis, that will outline the desired road networks for forest roads designed for passenger car travel. It will cover the entire Coconino and Kaibab National Forests. Contact: John O'Brien (928) 635-8371

Integrated Treatment of Noxious and Invasive Weeds – Develop actions to control noxious and invasive weeds, including the application of herbicides and a variety of non-chemical methods for the Kaibab, Coconino, and Prescott National Forests. A decision is anticipated spring of 2002. Contact: Dave Brewer (928) 635-8221

Livestock Allotment Analysis – In the FLEA area, 139,461 acres are closed to grazing by domestic livestock (not within a designated allotment) and 236,516 acres are covered by various Allotment Management Plans. These plans are either completed or we are in some stage of analysis. Contact: Mike Hannemann (928) 526-0866.

Flagstaff Area Open Spaces and Greenways Plan – Comments received in response to the Ideas for Change related to lands classified as low priority for retention in National Forest ownership (as shown in the Open Spaces and Greenways Plan), have been forwarded to the City of Flagstaff. Contact: Ursula Montaña, City of Flagstaff, (928) 779-7685.

Centennial Forest – The Centennial Forest was established in April 2000 through an intergovernmental agreement between the Arizona State Land Department and Northern Arizona University, to provide for forest health restoration, research, and management. Some Centennial Forest Parcels (State Land sections) lie in the FLEA area. Contact: www.for.nau.edu/CentennialForest



Chapter 2 – Area-Wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines

Introduction

The Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines in this chapter are additions to the Forest Plan and apply to the FLEA area only. Design of future projects will be based on three sources; 1) the current Forest Plan, 2) area-wide direction described in this chapter and 3) the Management Area direction in Chapter 3.

Goals are written as desired conditions in the present tense. Standards and guidelines are written in an active voice as direction. An area of land called the Urban/Rural Influence Zone is identified and some Area-wide standards and guidelines apply only to this zone.

Maps are located at the end of this document.

Zones

The Urban Influence Zone is located approximately ½ mile from the urban growth boundary as drawn in the draft *Flagstaff Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan (RULTP)*.⁴ The Rural Influence Zone is located approximately ½ mile from the rural growth boundary in the RULTP, where it surrounds communities like Doney Park and Kachina Village. These zones are mapped as one area referred to as the Urban/Rural Influence Zone (U/RIZ) (see Map). This zone provides a “fuzzy line” on the map that represents National Forest lands highly influenced by adjacent urban or rural residential communities. There are 64,368 acres of National Forest Lands within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone.

Background Notes

The majority of urban influences occur within approximately ½ mile of private land. Influences include social trails, utility corridors, private land access roads, dogs, cats and other pets, and some trash dumping. There is a high risk of fire ignition. Most catastrophic fires can be prevented (suppressed before they become crown fires) or “caught” within this zone if climatic conditions are not extreme and forest conditions are conducive to ground fire. Because a wildfire in this zone could travel onto private property, and because a fire originating in this area could impact important forest resources, this zone has the highest priority for fire risk reduction.

⁴ City of Flagstaff and Coconino County have been working on common planning direction for an area surrounding Flagstaff, that encompasses 524 square miles extending north to Sunset Crater, south to the communities of Kachina Village/Mountainaire, east to Winona, and west to Bellemont. It is planned to be finalized in the fall of 2001 and voted on by the public in May 2002.

Recreation Opportunity Setting (ROS)

Goals and Objectives

There is a range of recreational setting opportunities for people to enjoy the area's many scenic and aesthetic qualities.

The diversity and quality of recreation opportunities, settings, and experiences are within acceptable limits of change to ecosystem stability and condition.

Evidence of human activities and developments such as roads, trails, and facilities, is visually subordinate to the natural-appearing landscape.

Encourage cooperation among community, landowners, other land management agencies, and local governments to maintain trails, natural scenery, and healthy landscapes in the Urban/Rural Influence Zone.

Refer to the *Objectives for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum map for the FLEA Area* map (attached) for the desired recreation opportunities and experiences.⁵

Guidelines

ROS objectives guide management.

Strive towards social encounters, signing, scenery, and a sense of exploration that meets the ROS objectives.

Use ROS objectives to aid in determining appropriate types and numbers of individual, groups, outfitter/guides, and special uses.

Manage recreation use to stay within the capacity for ROS objectives.

Management activities should generally comply with the requirements of the adopted ROS classes on the *Objectives for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum map*.⁶

Work towards a complete Scenery Management System (SMS) assessment.

Background Notes

Primitive settings are essentially unmodified environments, where trails may be present but structures are rare, and where the probability of isolation from the sights and sounds of people is high. Semi-primitive Non-motorized settings have few and/or subtle modifications by people, and a high probability of isolation from the sights

⁵ This includes an increase in opportunities for Semi-primitive Non-motorized and Semi-primitive Motorized ROS experiences to better manage the high demand for this type of recreation setting. (see *Objectives for ROS map*)

⁶ For more discussion of ROS classifications please refer to *The Ideas for Change, Appendix A*.

and sounds of people. Semi-primitive Motorized settings have moderately dominant alterations by people, with strong evidence of primitive roads and/or trails. Roaded Natural settings are predominantly natural environments with evidence of moderate permanent resource use. Evidence of sights and sounds of people is moderate but in harmony with the natural environment. Opportunities exist for both social interaction and moderate isolation from sights and sounds of people.

This proposal has 48,676 acres of Semi-primitive Non-motorized, 135,516 acres of Semi-primitive Motorized, 105,783 acres of Roaded Natural and 10,958 acres of Primitive settings

The ROS objectives were developed using a landscape analysis and design process that incorporated wildlife, vegetation, topography, watershed, recreation, and road and trail data. The ROS objectives provide a mosaic of forest and nonforest conditions especially related to interactions of wildlife and watershed values with roads, trails, and recreation settings and activities. The Semi-primitive Motorized and Non-motorized zones distant from urban areas provide for solitude, remote dispersed recreation experiences, opportunities for challenge and risk, and many different kinds of wildlife including disturbance sensitive species. The smaller Semi-primitive Motorized and Non-motorized areas in close proximity to urban influenced areas provide a diversity of recreation settings that are easily accessible from the more developed residential areas. Some of the Semi-primitive areas are smaller than the minimum area generally required using national ROS Guidelines, but we felt the Semi-primitive designation was valid considering the strong public demand for such areas close to Flagstaff. Many of these same areas have high social encounters.

Visitor Information Services

Goals and Objectives

Regulations are known and enforced. Visitors are properly informed about services, facilities, regulations, and environmental ethics such as “Leave No Trace”.

Agencies communicate and work together with local organizations to achieve goals. There is ongoing communication among community organizations, interest groups, and homeowner associations.

Through a variety of interpretive efforts, people learn about biodiversity, ecosystem function, fire ecology, and riparian communities and will be motivated to practice careful stewardship.

Recreation

Guidelines

Implement and use “meaningful measures”⁷ to manage for dispersed recreation and user satisfaction.

Camping

Goals and Objectives

Dispersed campsites are maintained to protect forest resources and maintain visitor experience.

Impacts from dispersed camping do not result in unacceptable environmental impacts, interfere with day-use, or pose a threat to residents living next to National Forest lands.

Standards

Prohibit dispersed camping within 1 mile of developed campgrounds and developed day-use facilities.

The maximum camping stay limit is 14 consecutive days unless otherwise posted in a special order.

Guidelines

Implement the camping objectives outlined in the *Objectives for Camping* map. Emphasize daytime recreation activities in Urban/Rural Influence Zone. In portions of the FLEA area, change from general dispersed camping to designated dispersed camping only. Implement designated dispersed camping areas and any additional areas through subsequent site-specific analysis.

Inventory and monitor dispersed camping sites. This inventory will provide information about when sites should be closed and restored. The monitoring will provide information to help decide whether or not restored sites should be re-opened.

When designating dispersed camping, consider existing resource damage, closeness to riparian communities, degree of use, and ROS objectives. Campsites should be identified as candidates for closure, restoration, or relocation. Campsites that are identified to remain open will become designated campsites.

⁷ *Meaningful Measures (MM) is a process that connects management of the recreation program to our users, to Congress, and to agency decision makers through the establishment of National Quality Standards and the determination of the costs to meet those standards. MM is responsive to changes in funding, priorities, and visitor preferences.*

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Two – Area-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines

Techniques for managing designated dispersed campsites include but are not limited to the following concepts, depending on site location and level of use.

- In general, locate designated dispersed camping sites up to 300 feet off a forest road.
- Designated campsites are identifiable by a marker, such as a sign or post. Some sites may be hardened and access improved. Allow camping within 50 to 100 feet of the marker on a first-come first-serve basis and once the sites are full the user would have to go to another area to camp. Site-specific environmental analysis may yield a greater or lesser distance.
- To protect sensitive natural resources, harden or close high-use recreation sites and initiate additional camping and campfire restrictions, depending on monitoring.

Compile, map in GIS, and file in an electronic corporate database information obtained from inventory and monitoring of dispersed camping sites.

Inform and enforce State regulations for no camping within ¼ mile of open water.

Background Notes

Current areas prohibiting camping and campfires are mostly located around the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. This proposal expands the no camping policy around urban areas. Reasons for proposing the designated dispersed camping areas are: 1) some areas receive such heavy recreation use, they cannot support both daytime and night-time activities, 2) some wildlife species are more easily disturbed in the evenings or night-time, and 3) some drainages, steep slopes, and riparian vegetation are damaged and show signs of erosion and plant loss.

Why new campgrounds are not proposed - *The Sedona Area analysis, resulting in Forest Plan Amendment 12, recommended a campground above the rim, possibly in the Mexican Pocket area of Highway 89A. They cited overflow demands from Oak Creek Canyon. After review of Amendment 12, subsequent analysis indicated that a campground should not be placed on National Forest lands in the 89A corridor. Instead, we want to ask people to drive the short distance to Flagstaff area to camp in the tall pines where abundant similar camping opportunities are available. Driving down to Oak Creek for day-use can be easily done from Flagstaff. Possible partners to meet camping demands are Coconino County Parks and Recreation (Fort Tuthill), City of Flagstaff Parks Recreation, NAU Parks and Recreation, NAU Centennial Forest, private campgrounds, and ADOT.*

Our desired condition for the Highway 89A corridor is to emphasize fire risk reduction, wildlife habitat, threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, water quality, riparian, scenery management, and day-use dispersed recreation. There is limited flat land on the National Forest for a campground because Pumphouse Wash is to the east and Woody Ridge is on the west side. The per unit cost of a small campground is very high, and a large campground will not fit the available land area. Even a large campground would not meet the demand of overflow from Oak

Creek. There would likely also be negative nighttime influences from campground use on nocturnal species, such as the threatened Mexican spotted owl.

Outfitter/Guides

Goals and Objectives

Commercial activities are consistent with management area emphasis and ROS objectives.

Commercial activities support Forest Service goals and provide high quality outdoor recreation, interpretation, and education activities that complement the Forest Service mission.

Special-use proposals are consistent with desired conditions. New applications for commercial use are approved based on the ability and willingness of the applicant to meet the goals of the *Forest Plan*.

Standards

Manage outfitter/guide use to stay within capacities that meet ROS objectives.

Award new outfitter/guide permits competitively by soliciting applications/proposals. In general, reject unsolicited proposals.

Make outfitter/guide permits available based on a suitable mix of guided and non-guided public capacity. This mix may vary by type of activity and/or season of use.

Guidelines

Determine outfitter/guide service capacity for the FLEA area.

Review and adjust existing commercial uses to meet *Forest Plan* direction and ROS objectives.

The table below shows objectives for the number of social encounters within each of the ROS settings for Forest Service permitted commercial tour operators only. These objectives should apply to commercial tours.

ROS Setting⁸	Social Encounters (All users)
Roaded Natural	No objective
Semi-primitive Motorized	15 per day
Semi-primitive Non-motorized	15 per day
Primitive	6 per day

⁸ Although social encounter criteria apply to all users, limitations based on social encounters will only pertain to commercial operations.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Two – Area-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines

Reduce the use-level coefficients shown in this table as necessary to reflect usable acres, patterns of use, and general attractiveness of the specific management area type as described in the ROS Users Guide.

Use-level allocations will range from no allocation within some Primitive and Semi-primitive Non-motorized ROS areas to relatively high use allocations within some Roaded Natural areas. Other more site-specific resource concerns, such as the presence of significant archeological sites, threatened, endangered, or sensitive wildlife habitat, and areas with sensitive soils, will also influence outfitter/guide allocations.

Require current and future guiding (except hunting) to occur on Forest Service system roads and trails, or on designated routes mapped in an operating plan approved through an interdisciplinary analysis. In general, do not allow repetitive cross-country routes.

Generally, do not place additional outfitter/guide activities or group activities in the Mt. Elden/Dry Lake Hills Trail System, Pumphouse Wash, Deadman Wash, Walnut Canyon from Fisher Point east, any spring or perennial stream site, except in support of approved research and/or to improve safety or provide site rehabilitation.

If current outfitter/guides cease operations and the activity is considered to be desirable after review, conduct a solicitation process for replacement.

When a proposed use is not consistent with National Forest management direction and can be accommodated on private land, encourage recreation participants to use private land for their activities. Communicate and cooperate with other agencies and businesses to look for ways of providing for activities that are different from the Forest Service mission on properties managed by other agencies or businesses.

Outfitter/guide permits are administered to guidelines as defined by “Meaningful Measures”.⁹

Before permitting outfitter/guides adjacent to National Monuments, contact the National Park Service for coordination. Outfitter/guides might also help meet the mission of the National Park Service in the National Monuments or on adjacent National Forest lands.

Group Use

Goals and Objectives

There are opportunities for environmentally responsible group uses of National Forest lands.

⁹ *Meaningful Measures (MM) is a process that connects management of the recreation program to our users, to Congress, and to agency decision makers through the establishment of National Quality Standards and the determination of the costs to meet those standards. MM is responsive to changes in funding, priorities, and visitor preferences.*

Standards

Noncommercial groups of 75 or more are required to obtain a permit. Follow standard interdisciplinary resource coordination when approving permits.

Require one portable toilet (or equivalent) to be supplied by permittee for every 25 participants that stay overnight and one portable toilet (or equivalent) for every 50 people staying for the day in a publicized and/or organized event, except for group use sites that have permanent restroom facilities.

Guidelines

In general, large groups of 74 or less, such as family reunions, weddings, club gatherings, occur within ponderosa pine and mixed conifer areas on less than 40 percent slopes. Avoid placing large group events in riparian and open water areas, ponderosa pine and mixed conifer areas greater than 40 percent slope, and the interior of mountain meadows unless facilities already exist. Direct large groups to pre-determined areas where resource damage is less likely to occur.

Inform and enforce State regulations for no camping within ¼ mile of open water.

Other more site-specific resource concerns, such as the presence of significant archeological sites, threatened, endangered, or sensitive wildlife habitat, and areas with sensitive soils, will also influence group use allocations.

Evaluate sites used by groups and, based on monitoring results, implement appropriate group size adjustments.

Background Notes

We will continue current National Forest Policy of requiring groups of 75 or more to obtain a permit. We will continue to encourage groups of 74 or less to enter into a letter of agreement. Both permits and letters of agreement spell out the location, type of activity, sanitation needs, and area clean up.

Rock Climbing

Goals and Objectives

Rock climbing areas are managed and maintained for appropriate experience, natural settings, attributes, and conditions, considering ROS objectives, wildlife, heritage, and soil and water resources.

Rock climbing opportunities are provided, while protecting sensitive resources from unacceptable impacts.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Two – Area-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines

Rock climbing areas are managed in partnership with local rock climbers, climbing organizations, and outdoor recreationists.

Guidelines

Complete a management plan specific to rock climbing to tier from the *Forest Plan*. Climbing policy in the *Forest Plan* may be amended if the development of the climbing plan demonstrates the need.

The climbing plan will include, but is not limited to:

- Existing and new climbing routes
- Climbing implementation schedule identifying funding priorities for climbing management
- Closure measures when needed for threatened, endangered, and sensitive (TE&S) plants and animals and cultural resources
- Schedules for Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) or other management strategies when needed
- Monitoring

Develop or realign trails into climbing areas as appropriate to provide for public safety and resource protection.

Inventory rock climbing areas to determine their resources, conditions, and significance. Upon evaluation, some other sites may receive short-term, long-term, or seasonal closures to climbing to limit disturbance to threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Restrictions will be used on a case-by-case basis as determined necessary by wildlife biologists in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where appropriate.

Restrict human activities within approximately one-half (½) mile of occupied peregrine falcon nest sites March 1st through August 15th. The ½ mile protection distance may vary depending on local topography, potential for disturbance, and location of important habitat components. Monitor peregrine nesting success to determine if restrictions are effective.

Restrict human activities where active raptor nests are located. Species potentially impacted include the golden eagle, prairie falcon, Mexican spotted owl, and zone-tailed hawk. Protection distance will vary depending on the species, local topography, potential for disturbance, and breeding season for the species. Raptor surveys will be completed on site-specific areas to determine protection distance.

Provide interpretive information and education on climbing ethics, and resource protection through the use of brochures, signs, visitor contacts, and information stations.

Background Notes

Climbing is a dispersed recreation activity that occurs at specific sites. These sites are often fragile because of steep slopes, riparian or mixed conifer vegetation, and other rare plants. Climbing sites are often habitat for threatened, endangered, or

sensitive species. Sometimes impacts occur from climbing itself, or from combined actions such as general hiking, dispersed camping, or driving.

In the FLEA area we propose changes to overall dispersed use of the climbing sites, such as road closures, trail realignments, camping restrictions, and signing. This will alleviate impacts to resources. After these measures are taken however, there may still be some sites where climbing is not appropriate or where seasonal restrictions are needed.

Non-motorized Trails

Goals and Objectives

There are opportunities for a variety of trail experiences and challenges that are consistent with protection of sensitive resources, meet the needs of a diverse public, emphasize the natural environment, and meet ROS objectives.

Non-motorized and motorized trail opportunities provide a variety of challenges and experiences and meet ROS objectives.

There is a network of trails linked to other trail systems, such as City and County trail systems.

The Urban/Rural Influence Zone is actively managed to provide opportunities and lessen environmental impacts.

Trailheads are located in popular areas and provide adequate parking, signs, restroom facilities, public education, and resource management.

Standards

Implement and use the “Meaningful Measures”¹⁰ process to manage trail guidelines.

Guidelines

Discourage proliferation of unneeded trails by 1) public education, 2) providing well-defined trails that encourage people to stay on designated routes, 3) designing trails that provide a reasonable degree of access, 4) installing trail markers and defining trail edges, 5) providing orientation maps, and 6) obliterating social trails that duplicate system trails and/or cause resource damage.

Relocate existing trails as necessary to protect resources.

¹⁰ *Meaningful Measures (MM) is a process that connects management of the recreation program to our users, to Congress and to agency decision makers through the establishment of National Quality Standards and the determination of the costs to meet those standards. MM is responsive to changes in funding, priorities, and visitor preferences.*

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Two – Area-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines

For areas outside of the Urban/Rural Influence Zone, develop a primary system of trails and obliterate all trails outside of the primary system. New unplanned trails are also obliterated if they occur.

For areas within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone, create a primary trail system that serves as a collector for trails that originate in neighborhoods. In areas outside of the primary system, evaluate user-created (social) trail systems based on a checklist of criteria and in coordination with the nearby community. The criteria are similar to those listed for road management. Meet with each community and interested people around Flagstaff to develop site-specific trail plans. Focus trail planning first in areas with resource concerns, where high user conflicts occur, or in conjunction with other resource management activities.

Connect Forest Service trails to community access points, and use existing social trails where they make sense. Forest Service trail access points must be accessible by the public, which means no exclusive neighborhood entryways. Work with planning and zoning and developers while building plans are still under development. Some trails may provide special needs access.

Where social trails occur within Mexican spotted owl Protected Activity Centers (MSO PACs), delineate a system trail that provides for recreation use and lessens impacts to MSOs. Close and re-vegetate non-system trails in PACs not used for the designated trail.

Provide information and education about the shift in emphasis to more active trail management within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone.

Use a database to track both Forest Service system trails and their desired maintenance levels, and non-system trails. Track both motorized and non-motorized trail routes.

Use the ROS Objectives to match trail experiences with ROS objectives. Where Semi-primitive Motorized and Semi-primitive Non-motorized ROS objectives occur adjacent to residential areas, it may be necessary to maintain trails at a higher level and intensity and schedule than trails occurring in similar ROS classes in outlying areas.

In rare cases, an exception to ROS objectives may occur in Semi-primitive Non-motorized areas if analysis shows a link is needed for a motorized trail route.

Develop or realign trails accessing climbing locations to well-engineered design that maintains resources.

Annually maintain and update Forest trail implementation schedules and the Forest Trails Inventory and Condition Survey. Perform trail assessments at least every 5 years.

Coordinate with State, County, and communities park departments to connect Forest trails with parks and green-belt corridors, when it is mutually beneficial, provides better public service and development is compatible with other resource management.

Background Notes

The current social trail system that exists in the urban and rural residential influenced areas does not consistently match the Forest Service mission. This is because of inconsistent signing, spots of resource damage, or less than optimal outdoor recreation experience. We would like to transition trail use on National Forest lands adjacent to communities into a more planned and managed system. This will take, time, dollars, and involvement from members of each community.

For the FLEA area, the planned routes shown on the Transportation System and Utilities Corridor Map in the Forest Plan have been implemented. Local planning and zoning staff are coordinating with the City, County, and other governmental agencies to plan and maintain a system that is seamless.

This amendment, in conjunction with the current Forest Plan is used as the basis for developing budget proposals. The FLEA area is only a portion of the Forest and priorities for FLEA will be balanced with other Forest priorities for trail and other recreation management. Current recreation budgets are not keeping up with maintenance needs or new demands. It is likely that the rate of implementation will be opportunistic and tied to other resource projects. Partnerships with communities and other agencies can help facilitate implementation.

Motorized Trails

Goal

Outside of the Cinder Hills OHV area, motorized trails provide semi-primitive motorized experiences with connections to long distance opportunities. There are connections from communities to the secondary road system where feasible. Where community access is lacking, there are areas to trailer OHVs and park.

Guidelines

Identify some motorized trail routes.

Motorized trail opportunities provide long distance connections and meet ROS objectives. Evaluate trails based on the criteria for roads, access, recreation opportunity, and public input.

Convert some roads that are not needed for the road system into motorized trails and decrease to a width suitable for ATV's. Motorized trails will promote Semi-primitive Motorized experiences for individuals and small groups. Allow large group events or races on a case-by-case basis. Motorized trails are well engineered to avoid impacts. Some level II roads (high clearance vehicle use) may be used for portions of motorized trail routes.

Where possible, within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone, provide pass through corridors for vehicles and ATV/motorcycles that lead to separate motorized trails or to the secondary forest road system. Do not provide for unlicensed riders on 50” trails if the trails only lead them onto roads where it is illegal to ride. Coordinate trail locations near communities with local agencies and governments.

Scenery

Goals and Objectives

Developments such as roads, trails, camping, day-use sites, and trailheads mimic local materials and landscape characteristics to blend with the adjacent natural-appearing landscape.

Management activities, such as thinning and prescribed fire, result over the long-term, in alterations that appear natural to most visitors.

Guidelines

Provide fast clean-up from management activities and limit short-term visual impacts (1 to 3 years), while meeting fire potential reduction needs, design thinning for long-term scenic quality adjacent to homes and along major highways or near developed recreation sites.

Consider impacts to viewsheds of the three National Monuments and coordinate with Park Service personnel when designing or approving projects in these viewsheds.

State Highways 89A, 89, 180, and Lake Mary Road (FH3) provide a high-quality scenic experience. Provide input to ADOT and Coconino County, as appropriate, that highway improvements and maintenance should blend with existing natural appearing features except when there are safety concerns that cannot be mitigated. Provide input to ADOT and Coconino County to minimize the relative dominance of these highways to the extent possible/practical.

Roads and Off Road Driving

Goals and Objectives

Consult the *Roads Analysis for the FLEA Area* report, for desired open road network. Reference this information when conducting project level (site-specific) NEPA analysis to close, obliterate, or upgrade roads.

Road conditions and the miles of road should meet ROS objectives as displayed on the *Objectives for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum* map.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Two – Area-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines

The road system provides ample access and concentrates use on a well-designed road system, and maintains unroaded areas in between.

Encourage local, state, or county entities, or private organizations to sponsor a motocross site. Look for opportunities to exchange land for motocross if there is a willing sponsor.

Guidelines

Use the following criteria to evaluate roads and make decisions about their driving condition, their location or existence.

Reasons for closure or obliteration may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following criteria:

- Soils that are receiving, or are expected to receive, damage to the extent that soil productivity is or will be significantly impaired
- Slopes exceeding 40 percent where high probability for damage exists
- Riparian areas currently threatened or damaged
- Meadows likely to be or being damaged
- Poorly designed or maintained roads connected or adjacent to stream courses where potential for increased runoff and sedimentation is high
- Roads within stream courses or wetlands (permanently or intermittently wet) reducing hydrologic function
- Visual Quality Objectives (VQO) of Preservation, Retention, or Partial Retention are jeopardized
- Areas of important cultural resource sites vulnerable to damage that are being threatened or damaged
- Tree plantations less than 10 years old likely to be damaged
- Habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species that is threatened
- Key wildlife areas being threatened or damaged
- Areas important to wildlife reproductions such as fawning or nesting areas, where disturbance is causing, or likely to cause, significant stress and reduction of reproductive success
- Areas within designated municipal watersheds
- Areas where user conflict must be resolved to ensure public safety
- Areas considered dangerous for winter off-road driving activities
- Areas within urban or rural residential influenced zones outside of designated motorized routes
- Semi-primitive Non-motorized ROS objectives as set through environmental analysis. See *Objectives for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum* map for the FLEA area
- Roads where the level of use or maintenance thereof causes adverse levels of noise affecting wildlife or recreational experiences
- Areas where the road system modifies the surface and subsurface hydrology
- Roads, which cause the introduction or spread of exotic plant species, insects, diseases, and parasites
- Redundant roads
- Roads that foster illegal human activities

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Two – Area-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines

- Roads that contribute to the airborne dust emissions, which result in adverse human health concerns
- Roads that adversely affect the agency's direct costs, meaning there are more miles than we can afford to maintain
- Roads that contribute to incidents of high fire starts

Reasons for maintaining roads open may include, but are not limited to one or more of the following criteria:

- Roads that aid in the Agency's enforcement of laws and policies
- Roads required for access to treatment areas, range improvements, utilities, or minerals
- Roads that connect large blocks of land in other ownership
- Roads that provide access for fire suppression vehicles
- Roads that provide access to recreation use sites or areas
- Roads that provide access needs for research, inventory, and monitoring
- Roads necessary to meet peoples' needs and values for roads, such as Native Americans to gather traditional plants and access to traditional sites
- Roads necessary to manage special use sites
- Roads necessary to connect public roads
- Roads that if closed, would have an adverse impact on communities' social and economic health

Consider manageability as an important criterion when establishing boundaries of areas with restrictions and determining which roads will be open and maintained.

Keep the Pinegrove Seasonal Closure Area closed to vehicle access between August 15 and December 31.

Actual road closure or obliteration work occurs after site-specific NEPA and public involvement is complete. Such analysis will usually be accomplished concurrent with other project planning.

Conduct obliteration and re-vegetation work as funds become available. When choosing areas to conduct road maintenance and obliteration, focus efforts in Semi-primitive Motorized and Semi-primitive Non-motorized areas. Of the Semi-primitive Motorized and Semi-primitive Non-motorized areas, consider the Lake Mary and Oak Creek Watersheds as priorities for water quality reasons. Also focus work adjacent to the National Monuments.

Background Notes

The Roads Analysis for the FLEA Area is a detailed desired condition that will be validated or changed via subsequent site-specific NEPA analysis. This report includes a map of the desired open road system and a data table of desired open road conditions. The desired open road system described in the report was developed considering public input, agency coordination, ROS objectives, sensitive habitats, soil and water concerns, and adequate access for use and enjoyment of the Forest.

The criteria listed above were also used, but at a larger scale than site-specific analysis.

Because of the ongoing analysis of road policy in the Arizona OHV Forest Plan Amendment currently occurring for five National Forests in Arizona, this proposal does not address road policy. The current road policy of open unless posted closed will remain as well as the variety of area closures that currently exist in the FLEA area, unless this 5-forest analysis makes a decision to change the policy.

Motocross requires developed facilities and tracks that are more elaborate than facilities usually provided on National Forest lands. The tracks result in bare dirt with little ground cover and a natural landscape is not maintained. For these reasons motocross is better suited for lands other than National Forest lands because such an activity is outside of the Forest Service mission.

Wildlife Habitat

Goals and Objectives

Habitats support diverse, healthy populations of native plants and animals. A natural variety of plant species, age classes, and structures are present.

The impacts of non-native plant and animal species are controlled and the introduction of new non-natives is discouraged.

Threatened, endangered, sensitive, and management indicator species are maintained or recovering in the majority of the habitat.

Wildlife travelways help animals travel between summer and winter ranges, feeding and nesting areas, maternity areas, and dispersal areas. Travelways help ensure genetic mixing necessary for healthy populations.

Mexican Spotted Owl

No additional goals or objectives.

Guidelines

Do not identify target threshold stands within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone.

Do not apply the MSO recovery plan for restricted habitat within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. There are approximately 670 acres of mixed conifer and 850 acres of pine-oak stands where the restricted habitat requirements could, but will not be applied.

Within the FLEA area, survey habitat that potentially could be used for nesting, roosting, or breeding, and is within ½ mile of a proposed site-specific project boundary.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Two – Area-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines

Background Notes

The question the interdisciplinary planning team for FLEA asked themselves was whether or not the Forest Service could successfully manage for owls in the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. High levels of recreation, reduction of fire potential, and other urban influences including dogs, cats, other pets, and urban noise may limit the reproductive success of these disturbance sensitive birds. The team proposes to maintain existing occupied owl habitat. There is no change of existing protected activity centers (places where owls already live). However, future fuels management actions coupled with urban influences will progress away from and not towards MSO habitat in the urban/rural zone.

Note that we propose changing what lands we call restricted habitat in the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. In these areas the guidelines listed on pages 65-3 through 65-6 of the Forest Plan will not apply. In all other portions of the FLEA area, the guidelines described on pages 65-3 through 65-6 will apply where lands meet the restricted habitat definition. This affects 670 acres of mixed conifer and 850 acres of pine-oak stands that could be called restricted habitat but will not be classified as restricted. Where MSO restricted habitat classification is not applied in the Urban/Rural Influenced Zones, the goshawk direction will apply.

Northern Goshawks

No additional goals or objectives.

Guidelines

In the Urban/Rural Influence Zone, where possible, limit human activities within the 30-acre goshawk nest stand during the breeding season. In general however, do not curtail human activity such as informal dispersed recreation activities within the Post Fledging Family Areas (PFA). Social trails are likely to occur within portions of PFA's in the urban and rural influenced areas. Locate Forest Service system trails to avoid nest sites within PFA's, within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. Emphasize the need to control pets on Forest Service system trails through education and enforcement.

Background Notes

There are 4 goshawk PFA's that lie completely within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone, 2 PFA's partially within the zone, and 2 additional PFA's with only a very small parts within the zone. Because of the high levels of daytime dispersed recreation near urban areas, it is virtually impossible to limit human activity within the entire PFA. Dogs, cats, and other pets can disturb nesting birds and prey species. We cannot ensure that reproductive success will not be affected by human activities within the Urban/Rural Influenced Zone.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Guidelines

Outside of the Urban/Rural Influence Zone monitor the effects of human disturbance to threatened and endangered species. Consider use restrictions if monitoring shows unacceptable impacts.

Land Exchange

Goals and Objectives

In the FLEA area there are a few parcels desirable for the Forest Service to acquire. If a willing property owner comes forward entertain a land exchange or land acquisition. Desirable parcels are a ¼ section of private land in the Dry Lake Hills and there are some isolated, undeveloped parcels in the Lake Mary Watershed.

Background Notes

The following guidelines are taken directly from the current Forest Plan. The only change we are suggesting at this time is highlighted in bold. The additional text is provided for context and clarity.

Guidelines

Lands offered by the United States in a land exchange are tentatively classified as base-in-exchange. Currently, the Forest has 21,133 acres classified as base-in-exchange. Because local and physical conditions may change during the life of this plan, other lands may be considered for exchange. They will generally meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Lands needed to meet the needs of expanding communities;
- Isolated tracts or scattered parcels that cannot be efficiently managed;
- Lands that provide consolidation of the public lands;
- Lands that will improve management, benefit specific resources, or increase management efficiency;
- Lands that are necessary to meet overriding local, regional, and national public needs;
- Lands within the boundaries of incorporated communities or annexed thereto **or land within locally approved growth management boundaries.**
- Review base-in-exchange plans when private land uses change from wildland and undeveloped uses towards more intensive uses.

Forestry

Background Notes

The following text additions are proposed for the FLEA area to be added direction for lands previously classified as MA3 (Ponderosa Pine And Mixed Conifer Less Than 40 Percent Slope). These areas are where most vegetative treatments have occurred in the past, and where most vegetative treatments are likely to occur in the future. This is because of the large amount of ponderosa pine on the landscape, and the continued need to progress towards desired conditions.

The desired condition of pine forests is guided by goshawk guidelines. This is because goshawks are a forest dweller at the top of the food chain. Maintaining food, shelter, and water for the goshawk does the same for the goshawk's prey, the prey's prey, and the prey's prey food base, thus resulting in all the parts of an ecosystem maintained. The desired condition outlined for goshawks can be achieved with a variety of prescriptions. Single or multiple treatments may be used so that trees grow to desired sizes and desired canopy closures and so that desired interspaces between trees are achieved.

We will continue to emphasize goshawk habitat as described in the Forest Plan pages 65-3 through 65-6. In addition the following goals and objectives are added.

Goals and Objectives

Grass, forbs, and shrubs on the forest floor contribute to biological diversity of the ponderosa pine forest.

Fire should continue to play a natural ecological role within the constraints of human health and safety.

The risk of and potential for destructive crown wildfire is reduced, especially in the Urban/Rural Influence Zone and the Wildland Urban Interface (UII) as depicted on the Fire Management Analysis Zones map.

Forest product removal (of any kind) is designed to maintain or restore ecosystem health and desired conditions. The use of National Forest land products, are primarily a means for achieving ecosystem management objectives.

Guidelines

Reduce crown canopy and ladder fuels where needed to reduce risk of stand replacing crown fires.

Reduce competition between closely spaced trees in some areas, to promote future large trees faster and to achieve desired tree sizes and canopy closures outlined in the *Forest Plan* (owl and goshawk guidelines). The parameters within which treatments should be designed are to be relatively assured that the future forest structure outlined in the goshawk guides is not

precluded. No single treatment prescription is proposed. Examples of possible prescriptions include but are not limited to restoration models, uneven age models, even-age shelterwood, understory thinning, and prescribed fire.

Reduce competition between closely spaced trees in some areas to promote health and resistance to insects and disease.

Incorporate measures to control noxious weeds into project design.

Maintain connected patches of denser vegetation that, along with topography, provide travel corridors for wildlife to move through the FLEA area. Maintain the two corridors that occur in the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. They are in the vicinity of A-1 Mountain/Fort Valley, Naval Observatory, and along the Rio de Flag.

When designing treatment consider landowner wishes within the 150-foot area immediately adjacent to private land. Within the 150-foot area, more trees may be left based on landowner input.

For the Urban/Rural Influence Zone, the indicator species will be, pygmy nuthatch, and hairy woodpecker. For areas outside of the Urban/Rural Influence Zone, all ponderosa pine less than 40 percent slope (MA3) management indicator species will remain as they are stated on page 117 of the *Forest Plan*.

Where appropriate, design projects to accomplish fuels reduction and maintenance on cultural resource sites.

Within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone, and in the Wildland Urban Interface as depicted on the Fire Management Analysis Zones map, do not apply the hiding and thermal cover guideline that requires 30 percent cover within a 10K Block. Within the Wildland Urban Interface as depicted on the Fire Management Analysis Zones map, wildlife travelways, PFA's and other ecosystem components will be provided, and will provide some cover, however, the 30 percent guideline will not be used.

Providing firewood is not an emphasis for oak management.

Background Notes

In the Urban/Rural Influence Zone, there will likely be few exceptions to the open forest condition. Forest management in this zone will place highest priority on reducing the potential for catastrophic wildfire. Lands southwest of developed private lands and within the Wildland Urban Interface as depicted on the Fire Management Analysis Zones map are also high priority for fuels reduction work, because prevailing winds usually occur out of the southwest.

Suitability: *Suitability of all lands for removal of a commercial timber product in the FLEA area does not change. Before Amendment 11 was adopted many of the acres of suitable timberlands in ponderosa pine less than 40 percent slope were classified under timber component 500 (suitable forest land-timber emphasis). Since Amendment 11 was adopted, most if not all of these acres changed to timber*

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Two – Area-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines

component 650 (wildlife habitat emphasis). This proposed action provides added emphasis of fuels reduction in the Urban/Rural Influence Zone and these lands could change to another form of the 600 series of timber components to reflect emphasis on fuels reduction.

Rates of implementation: *There are no required rates of implementation listed in the Forest Plan, rather a range of outputs and acres were analyzed. Action to progress towards desired conditions outlined in this Proposed Action fall within the range of activities analyzed in the Forest Plan. The chart below estimates acres treated per year for the FLEA area, both currently, and in the future.*

Given what we know to date about factors affecting implementation such as smoke management, markets, and budgets, we estimate the following

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Current Trends</i>	<i>Future Trends</i>
<i>Mechanical treatment of live fuels (thinning)</i>	<i>500 to 1000 acres per year</i>	<i>1,000 to 2,000 acres per year</i>
<i>Pile burning</i>	<i>300 to 1000 acres per year</i>	<i>1,000 to 1,500 acres per year</i>
<i>Underburning</i>	<i>500 acres per year</i>	<i>2000 to 3000 acres per year¹¹</i>

Noxious Weeds

No additional goals or objectives.

Guidelines

Refer to and follow the *Coconino National Forest Noxious Weeds Strategy* when implementing projects in for the FLEA area. This strategy lists “best known practices” for noxious weed control.

Assist in maintaining the Southwest Exotics Mapping Project (SWEMP) database of noxious weed populations in cooperation with the USGS. Much of the FLEA area has yet to be surveyed and this should occur as part of project planning and implementation.

Background Notes

Our strategy is two fold: control or remove existing plants; take steps to lessen the spread of noxious weeds. The Noxious Weeds Strategy provides methods for conducting risk assessments and contains a flow chart of mitigation measures, such as cleaning equipment. This is especially important in the FLEA area because of the major highways and roadways which provide corridors for plants to spread, and

¹¹ *After approximately 5 years maintenance burning of areas previously treated will be a larger portion of the program.*

because many of the noxious weed species have the opportunity to increase after ground disturbing activities such as thinning, prescribed fire, and road obliteration.

Watershed

Goals and Objectives

The biological, physical, and human elements of the landscape sustain ecological processes, functions, and structures appropriate to the FLEA Area ecosystem. Natural disturbance patterns are conserved or restored consistent with human health and safety. Natural elements of the landscape are restored and protected.

Soil function and long-term productivity are sustained so that the soil can resist erosion, recycle nutrients, and absorb water.

Natural vegetative and fuels composition area restored so as to reduce susceptibility to large-scale watershed disturbances, such as large catastrophic wildfire.

The Lake Mary watershed is a high priority for watershed restoration and maintenance from an ecological and socio-economical standpoint. Upper and Lower Lake Mary are important municipal water sources for the City of Flagstaff.

Guidelines

Implement actions to ensure that water quality, quantity, and timing support domestic surface water supply needs. Specific items include: to improve wildlife and livestock grazing strategies, provide stream channel stabilization, construct proper drainage and perform maintenance on roads, relocate roads from meadows and other sensitive areas, obliterate unnecessary roads and manage recreation in a way that supports domestic surface water supply needs.

Implement actions to restore a natural vegetative and fuels composition, and ensure that soil condition objectives are met on a landscape scale to reduce susceptibility of large-scale watershed disturbances, such as a large catastrophic fire or insect/disease outbreak.

Background Notes

Maintaining and restoring watersheds were primary reasons for establishing the National Forests. Forested land absorbs precipitation, refills the regional underground aquifer, sustains watershed stability and resilience, and provides aquatic and wildlife habitat. Besides these ecological benefits, the Lake Mary watershed provides opportunities for domestic drinking water, water-based recreation, and other benefits that improve the quality of life.

The greatest threat to healthy waters is a large-scale disturbance that results in accelerated soil erosion, concentration of water, and nutrient runoff, which in turn affects the quality, quantity, and timing of water flow. The goshawk guidelines

describe a condition with greater understory vegetation advantageous to functional watersheds.

Mountain Meadows

Background Notes

The following text additions are proposed for the FLEA area to be added direction for lands previously classified as Mountain Meadows (MA9). This additional direction describes in more detail and with clearer language the existing management direction contained in MA 9.

Goals and Objectives

Soil condition objectives are met and soil functions are sustained so that the soil can readily absorb, store, and transmit water both vertically and horizontally, accept, hold and release nutrients, and resist erosion. Soils are able to maintain resource values, sustain outputs, and recover from impacts.

Mountain meadows located with the Lake Mary and Oak Creek Watersheds are improved to enhance soil productivity, biological diversity, and help maintain downstream water quality. Improvement measures include: stream channel stabilization, improved cattle grazing strategy, management of wildlife, recreation, and roads within these meadows.

The rate of water infiltration is increased, thereby minimizing surface runoff, reducing on-site sheet, rill and gully erosion, and subsequent sedimentation into connecting waters downstream.

Enhance soil organic matter content to improve physical condition and increase water infiltration, nutrient cycling, and soil productivity.

Vegetative species composition and diversity are increased and the distribution and diversity of vegetative ground cover is improved.

Guidelines

In general, do not locate open roads in meadows.

Provide media and public information focused on the importance of meadows and proper activities within meadows.

Increase and improve vegetative species composition and diversity in the surrounding landscapes to diffuse grazing pressure from elk and livestock.

Background Notes

Grasslands are a key part of the watershed system. A proper functioning grassland helps to ensure quality water, quantity, and timing of water flow and promotes long-term soil productivity. Grasslands within the Lake Mary watershed are heavily used portions of the landscape as they are very productive, provide forage for wildlife and livestock, serve as transportation corridors, and concentrate recreational use. Productivity of grasslands and soils within the watershed have been reduced and degraded by livestock and wildlife grazing, road development, and recreation. Although grasslands are easily damaged, they also respond rapidly to improved management. Within the watershed, emphasis will be given to restoring and managing these resources.

Riparian and Open Water

Background Notes

The following additions are added direction for lands previously classified as MA12 within the FLEA area.

Goals and Objectives

Riparian communities benefit riparian dependent resources and support diverse assemblages of aquatic and terrestrial species.

Stream channels have adequate and appropriate plant cover to protect stream banks and dissipate energy during high flows.

Stream flow is adequate to maintain aquatic communities and water sources for wildlife.

Wildlife viewing is recognized as a form of recreation and opportunity for environmental education.

Guidelines

Emphasis is placed on rehabilitation of high elevation riparian communities. Rehabilitation may include: wildlife and livestock grazing management, fencing, stream channel stabilization, road relocation, recreation management, and physical protection of revegetation work.

Ensure that riparian areas are in a condition that improves or maintains high quality water in the Lake Mary and Oak Creek watersheds.

Establish administrative exclosures on representative riparian areas to determine riparian habitat potential.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Two – Area-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines

Follow the trail planning parameters set forth in the FLEA area-wide Guidelines. In addition, develop trails strategy that allows for water access while protecting the riparian community, wildlife habitat, and sensitive plants.

At certain locations provide wildlife viewing compatible with wildlife habitat.

Reduce impacts on water quality by such methods as placing toilets in strategic locations, and providing information about proper sanitation practices.

Follow FLEA area-wide criteria related to roads in riparian and open water areas.

Generally discourage off-road driving within ¼ mile of these sites.

Firewood

No additional goals or objectives.

Guidelines

Do not provide general firewood gathering for personal use in the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. However, designated firewood cutting areas may be provided under a managed setting as a tool for removing slash generated by thinning and improving herbaceous understory.

Coordination with National Park Service

No additional goals or objectives.

Guidelines

Update the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National Park Service and the Coconino National Forest. The MOU sets up 1) how the agencies communicate when situations arise, and 2) what criteria will be used to make decisions together. For the Flagstaff Area National Monuments some of the items that need to be added to the MOU include considerations for: Native American access for traditional uses, law enforcement cooperation, personal use plant gathering, outfitter/guide parameters, commercial filming parameters, boundary management, fire management, and define cooperative efforts in managing interpretation and visitor services.

Continue cooperative law enforcement efforts with the National Park Service on lands adjacent to National Monuments.

Coordination with Researchers

No additional goals or objectives.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Two – Area-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines

Guidelines

Consider ongoing research in project design both to avoid impacts to research plots and to gain knowledge provided by research results.

Create and maintain a spatial and tabular database of approved research sites.

Refer research proposals to appropriate areas based on FLEA area objectives.

Background Notes

This is especially important for long-term research studies with universities, government agencies, and other groups. The map and database can be used as a tool to alert project planners about ongoing research in their project area. At the same time researchers should be on the mailing list for the Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA), so that they may be aware of upcoming projects.

Data Management

No additional goals or objectives.

Guidelines

Use current technologies for data collection, data storage, analysis, and management of Forest Resources. Data collection and mapping needs within the FLEA area include user-created roads and trails, dispersed campsites, group use areas, noxious weed locations, and trailheads. Continue current efforts to track wildfires, vegetation condition, and threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitats.



Chapter Three – Management Areas

Background Notes

These management areas are delineated to provide a geographical reference and “sense of place”. Management emphasis is defined for each MA, and there is some management direction that is specific to a particular MA. Most of the MA’s are new. Two MA’s are re-drawn from the current Forest Plan. MA13 previously covered the Cinder Hills OHV area and the surrounding landscapes. We have reduced MA13 to include only the OHV area. We have delineated the surrounding landscapes as the Craters, Doney, and Deadman MA’s. MA18 previously covered the Elden Environmental Study Area. We have moved this classification to MA 17, Special Areas. In addition, we are expanding MA 17 to include additional environmental study areas for Old Caves Crater and Griffith’s Spring. Acres shown for each MA are National Forest acres only.

Proposed Management Areas

There are 10 different Management Areas in the FLEA area.

- Cinder Hills OHV MA is south of Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument and north of the Doney Park area
- Craters MA is west of Doney MA and south of Strawberry Crater Wilderness.
- Deadman Wash MA covers the lands from the northeastern boundary of the Forest to FR 545 that bisects Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument.
- Doney MA surrounds the communities in the Doney Park, Timberline, Fernwood, and Black Bill Park.
- Flagstaff MA contains national forest lands within the Urban Growth Boundary for the City of Flagstaff as described in the draft *Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan*.
- Lake Mary Watershed MA, which contains the Lake Mary watershed and also encompasses the Upper and Lower Lakes Mary and Marshall Lake.
- Schultz MA includes Dry Lake Hills and Mt. Elden, along with lands east of the Waterline road (the eastern boundary of the Kachina Peaks Wilderness) and west of the Doney MA.
- Special Areas (MA 17) now contains the environmental study areas. Elden ESA is being expanded and two more areas are being added, Griffith’s Spring, Old Caves Crater. MA 18 no longer exists.
- Walnut MA lies south of Flagstaff and includes lands surrounding Walnut Canyon between I-40 and FH3 (Lake Mary Road).
- West MA, which surrounds the communities from Hidden Hollow to Fort Valley, the communities of Kachina Village, Mountaineer, Forest Highlands, and Lake Mary Road, and also includes the lands encompassing Woody Ridge and Rodgers Lake.
- The Strawberry Crater Wilderness remains part of MA1 (Wilderness) and does not change from the current *Forest Plan*.

Cinder Hills Off Highway Vehicle Area – MA 13

Acres: 13,648

Description

The northern boundary is south of Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument (Monument) and Forest Road (FR) 545, the eastern boundary is the Doney MA, (east of Fernwood subdivision), the southern boundary is the Doney MA (underground pipeline) and the western boundary is the Craters MA (large KV electric line). This MA is a portion of the San Francisco volcanic field with a field of large cinder cones sparsely covered by ponderosa pine trees and shrubs and covered with a deep layer of loose cinders. The “moonscape” of impressive cinder cones in this MA provides world class ATV, sandrail, and motorcycle riding, dispersed camping, and spectacular scenery. Unique among southwestern forests, the Cinder Hills are the result of massive, recent volcanic activity around the San Francisco Mountain. NASA used a part of the area to train astronauts in the 1960's because of its moon-like surface. The unique nature of the cinder soils, combined with hills, cool summer temperatures, and other features make the Cinder Hills OHV area an extremely popular destination of OHV enthusiasts. Individuals and large groups enjoy the area year-round, with heaviest use occurring on summer weekends. Because of the deep cinders, only 4 wheel drive, ATV's, or sandrails can travel on the cindery roads. Other roads are travelable only because they have had other surface material brought in. Current improvements include improved main roads, trails, loading ramps, and signs. There is no private land within the MA, the communities of Fernwood and Doney Park are adjacent to the nearby Doney MA.

Portions of the Cinder Hills OHV area are viewed from overlooks in the Monument and as one drives along FR 545. As visitors look from the Cinder Hills Overlook, OHV activity can be seen and heard, especially on very busy weekends. The hills provide a scenic backdrop as seen from Highway 89. New information has shown that portions of the OHV area erupted along with Sunset Crater. The geologic ties of Gyp Crater and the rest of the volcanic “vent” and the Kana-a Lava flow, has lead to greater emphasis on protection of these features. Some of the landforms in the Cinder Hills hold religious and cultural significance to American Indians. This MA supports plant and animal species adapted to cinder landscapes. Plants adapted to the cinder soils include *Penstemon clutei*, a Forest Service Region 3¹² sensitive plant.

Management Emphasis

Emphasize OHV recreation opportunities and amenities. Monitor communities of plants such as *Penstemon clutei* where and when they occur in the OHV area. Ensure continued existence of this endemic plant. Mitigate scenic integrity of areas seen from the Monument, Highway 89, and neighboring rural residential areas.

¹² Region 3 refers to the Southwest Region of the Forest Service including Arizona, New Mexico, and a portion of Oklahoma

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Cinder Hills OHV – MA 13

Protect the Kana-a Lava flow and Gyp Crater geologic features associated with Sunset Crater.

Highlights include:

- Per the *Objectives for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum* map, this MA is mostly Semi-primitive Motorized with Roaded Natural corridors along improved roads. On busy summer weekends there are more people than would usually be the case in a Semi-primitive setting, but other aspects of Semi-primitive settings occur.
- Actively manage for OHV use by increasing facilities to match use, better signing and trail designation, more on-site presence, and road improvement. Coordinate administration/enforcement with the National Park Service.
- Management Indicator Species for this MA are mule deer, pygmy nuthatch, and hairy woodpecker.
- Manage for Visual Quality Objectives (VQO's) of Partial Retention, and Modification. The VQO's should be Partial Retention as seen from Doney Park, Highway 89, Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument vistas, and FR 545; and Modification from roads crossing the area.

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	2,868
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	0
Pinyon-juniper	0
Unsuitable	2,703
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	3,775
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	0
Suitable Timber lands	4,302
TOTAL	13,648

All of the following management direction are Guidelines

OHV Use

This MA is designated for off-road driving and is managed for two and four wheeled vehicles.

Manage off-road driving to provide recreational opportunities and coordinate with needs of other recreation users and other resources.

Make slight adjustments to the boundary of the OHV area where needed to ease administration of the site. These changes will improve enforcement of the boundaries, help

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Cinder Hills OHV – MA 13

users identify the area, and in combination with other access management activities will lessen encroachment into the Monument.

The boundary should be slightly revised on the southwest corner of the area for administrative identification. There is no significant change in the size of the area, but it is adjusted to roads or features that are identifiable on the ground. The map will be revised to reflect what is currently posted on the ground.

See the *Objectives for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum* map and manage uses to meet these objectives. On busy summer weekends, the number of encounters with other recreationists will likely be outside parameters set for Semi-primitive settings.

Reference the *Cinder Hills Off-Road Driving Area Report*. This report is a detailed desired condition that will be validated or changed via subsequent site-specific NEPA analysis. This report includes a map of the desired improved roads, camping areas, specific slope designations, rehabilitation needs, sanitation facilities, signing, boundary management, information, and interpretation actions. The report will be updated as needed with involvement from off-road vehicle users, Native American tribes, and others concerned with Cinder Hills use. Requiring a permit and/or charging a fee may be considered in the future. Operation of the area by a concessionaire may be considered.

Portions of this MA will be open to unrestricted cross-country travel, portions will have use restricted to designated routes, and portions will be closed (some slopes).

Reasons for closing areas may include:

- Protection of geologic features tied to Sunset Crater
- Scenic integrity of steep slopes facing the Sunset Crater Overlook, the Doney Park communities, and Highway 89
- Presence of archaeological sites that could be damaged (usually located under a cinder layer) or other places of traditional cultural importance
- Maintenance of ground vegetation necessary for ecosystem function
- Sensitive plant locations, such as *Penstemon cluteii*
- Needs of off-road users
- User safety
- Manageability

Reasons for keeping areas open may include:

- Low visibility from communities or from the Monument (interior of this MA)
- Quality of the ATV/sandrail experience
- To provide for a variety of OHV experiences
- Proximity to camping areas
- Low or absent vegetative cover

Organized off-road driving events are considered on a case-by-case basis through the environmental analysis process.

Glass containers may be prohibited if the containers create a health, safety, and/or litter problem.

*FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Cinder Hills OHV – MA 13*

Pursue on-site patrols and more full time stewardship.

Partner with OHV community to take advantage of volunteer contributions.

Pursue State¹³ grants and other funding opportunities for improvements, rehabilitation, interpretation, and on-site presence. Other funding may include Fee Demo.¹⁴

Vehicle sound emissions will be required to meet State standards, or in the absence of State standards, industry or other standards.

Vehicles will meet Forest Service Region 3 fire equipment standards.

Recreation Signing

Improve and maintain boundary and interior signing

Camping and Roads

Improve or re-locate improved roads and locate camping in order to disperse riders, provide additional areas for enjoyment, and lessen use in sensitive areas. Criteria for access and camping design include: location of riding areas, presence of *Penstemon cluteii* habitat, dispersing riders, improving visual quality, and protection and rehabilitation needs of impaired vegetation and soils.

Provide different camping levels and experiences. Provide more developed camping hubs along improved roads. Design and develop transportation routes at camping hubs for pulling off the road. These hubs will include sanitation facilities.

Provide quiet area camping sites. Quiet area restrictions are posted, and as funding becomes available, monitored by host and OHV users. Sanitation facilities are included at these sites as needed. All other areas of the OHV are open to primitive camping, unless specifically closed.

¹³ *Coordination with the State: We will continue to work with the State, to determine what grants are available and appropriate to apply for in relation to the proposed management, improvements, and rehabilitation needs of the area. In addition to exploring funding avenues, we will work with the State to determine other management partnerships that might be desirable to achieve the management objectives and enhance the OHV experience.*

¹⁴ *Fee Demo: The District will be studying the concept of Fee Demo for the OHV Area. A District team will determine if fee demo is a desirable funding avenue, and if so, how a fee demo area would be implemented. We will visit other fee demo sites, talk to other managers, and work with the OHV community to determine if this is an appropriate and/or desirable action to take.*

Scenery

In closed areas, attempt actions to remove tracks and re-create natural cinder landscapes. Research techniques that may help the situation, but without causing large areas of additional ground disturbance. Examples of actions may include raking, dragging cinders up slope, mimicking needlecast or seeding.

Cultural/Historical

Provide signing informing the public about closure of astronaut training ground.

Add a fence around the astronaut training ground to exclude OHV's.

Rare Plants

Continue to monitor *Penstemon cluteii*. There is an ongoing status report¹⁵ being developed for this plant. As this information is attained we will make any necessary adjustments to ensure continued existence of this endemic plant.

Forestry

Many acres within the Cinder Hills OHV area have low regeneration potential due to cinder soils and are currently classified as unsuitable for timber production.

Evaluate stand conditions, including insect and disease, and the health and vigor of stands. Where and when necessary to meet safety objectives, harvest recent dead and poor risk ponderosa pine.

Noxious Weeds

There are known populations of diffuse knapweed here. Continue efforts to torch or pull individual plants along road corridors.

Livestock Grazing

This area is currently closed to livestock grazing.

¹⁵ *Penstemon cluteii* grows in cinder soils at various locations on the Peaks Ranger District. The status report covers the entire range for this plant, which includes the OHV area.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Cinder Hills OHV – MA 13

Fire Suppression

Suppression objective is to minimize suppression costs and provide for personnel safety. The suppression objective is 10 acres or less in acres mapped as Urban Interface as depicted on the FMAZ map. In areas outside the Urban Interface, the suppression objective is to hold fires to 1,000 acres or less.

Prescribed Burning

Prescribed fire using planned and unplanned ignitions is used to accomplish resource objectives except there is no provision for unplanned ignitions in areas included in the urban interface.

Coordination with National Park Service

Protect areas that are directly tied to the Sunset Crater eruption for future research, and visitor interpretation of the geologic story.

For Gyp Crater: establish safety barriers, and/or warning signs around the exterior of the crater, establish and coordinate interpretive signing and programs with the National Park Service, close Gyp Crater to OHV access and camping, and rehabilitate tracks in Gyp Crater.

For the Kana-a lava flow, prevent off road vehicle use in the lava flow. Use proposed boundary adjustments in combination with access management. Roads leading north off of FR 244 should be closed and rehabilitated. These roads lead out of the OHV area and impact the Kana-a lava flow.

Work with and establish interpretive messages and programs with the National Park Service and volunteers from OHV users. Including improved signing, information kiosks, and interpretive message at the Cinder Hills Overlook. Provide signing and information aimed at the following objectives: to prevent lost riders, to show opportunities of where to ride, to clearly depict boundaries and eliminate encroachment into Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument, and to identify dangerous and/or closed areas.

Coordinate with Sunset Crater Volcano and Wupatki National Monuments in managing dispersed recreation use adjacent to the Monuments.

Background Notes For New Management Direction In The Cinder Hills OHV Management Area

The Forest Plan currently states that slopes over 40 percent should have a dense network of designated trails. We are proposing to eliminate this language, as some slopes over 40 percent will be open to riding. On steep slopes, vehicles need the option of leaving intended travel routes, to have the option of making a quick loop to turn around and head back down without flipping over. In addition, designated routes cause difficulty because the large number of markers needed and the open nature of steep faces. Designated routes can create more impact than dispersed use

*FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Cinder Hills OHV – MA 13*

on the slope. Safety concerns arise when many vehicles are driving two directions at high speeds on designated routes.

Rather than implementing a system of trails as indicated in the current Forest Plan, we propose a combination of designated routes, and open faces and closed faces on some of the hills. Closed faces would have no OHV travel and open faces would have drive anywhere opportunities. Designated routes will be provided to ensure access to areas affected by closed slope areas where needed

Roads within the OHV area influences parking and camping opportunities, and to some extent, dispersal of use. Currently, camping is focused along improved roads causing heavy use in proximity to the improved roads. One of the more popular camping areas is located near the intersection of Forest Roads 545 and 776. This area is visible from the Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument, Cinder Hills Overlook, and causes visual, dust, and noise impacts, especially on busy weekends. However, this area is very popular with the users, has easy access, and has evolved among the users, to provide a clientele of campers that are in general looking for a quieter, more relaxed setting. It is un-written policy among the users, that if you camp in this area, you are expected to honor this type of setting.

These proposals work on solving several of the issues we are working on including: visual, noise, and dust problems experienced from the monument, commuter/user safety concerns on FR 776, and improved and dispersed access.

This geologic area is tied to the Sunset Crater Volcano story. It is visible, in general, as a line of red cinders that extends from Sunset Crater to the Double Crater area, and includes Gyp Crater. Gyp Crater itself is a deep hole with dangerous rocks and cliffs. In addition to being a significant geologic feature, it is too dangerous for OHV riding.

Penstemon cluteii is a Forest Service sensitive plant that occurs both outside and within the OHV area, particular to cinder soils.

Common to all restricted slopes will be rehabilitation of major routes and ruts, as funding becomes available. Also, an additional criteria to pursue and develop, is establishment of "no wake zones" where motors are kept quieter, (no engine revving), and speed is kept slow, using signs, information, and honor system. This avenue could be pursued in place of closing highly valued routes, as we work with the OHV users on rehabilitation areas.

Craters Management Area

Acres: 29,858

Description

The western boundary of this MA is the Cinder Hills OHV area and Doney MA (marked by a large KV electrical line). The northern boundary is the Strawberry Wilderness, the southern and eastern boundaries are the Forest boundary. A portion of the San Francisco volcanic field occurs here with a field of large cinder cones sparsely covered by ponderosa pine trees and shrubs and covered with a deep layer of loose cinders. The "moonscape" of impressive cinder cones in this MA provides remote, dispersed recreation opportunities and there is a stay on designated roads policy. The southeast 1/3 of this MA is pinyon/juniper woodland and grasslands with sparse pinyon and juniper trees and the occasional large cinder cone. The pinyon/juniper areas provide remote dispersed recreation opportunities and supports uses such as livestock grazing and firewood. Maroon Crater is the largest cinder cone and is used for hang gliding. This entire MA is distant from the sites and sounds of urban areas. Two paved roads (FR 545 and Luepp Road) pass through the MA. There are no communities adjacent to this MA. Some of the landforms in the Cinder Hills hold religious and cultural significance to Native Americans. This MA supports plant and animal species adapted to cinder landscapes, pinyon/juniper woodland, and grasslands.

Management Emphasis

Maintain cinder ecosystems, un-tracked appearance of cinder cones, and remote recreation opportunities with a high sense of self-exploration. Continue opportunities for firewood cutting and livestock grazing in the pinyon/juniper woodland. Restore natural grasslands. Re-establish or maintain fire and other ecosystem processes in the pinyon/juniper woodland.

Highlights Include:

- Management Indicator Species (MIS) should be referenced by vegetation and landform type. For example, in pinyon/juniper woodland areas MIS are those listed for MA7.
- Maintain Semi-primitive Motorized ROS settings throughout the MA, with Roaded Natural corridors in between. Provide Semi-primitive Non-motorized settings on the large cinder cones.
- Retain an un-tracked appearance on the large cinder cones and maintain plants and animals adapted to the cinder ecosystem.
- Provide day and overnight-dispersed recreation opportunities with few developed trails or facilities.
- As stated in Management Area 10, of the *Forest Plan*, maintain and improve grasslands, including removing encroaching pinyon/juniper and re-

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Craters

introducing fire. Maintain or improve watershed conditions throughout the MA.

- Protect cultural resources
- Continue motorized travel restrictions similar to the current Forest orders where motorized use occurs on designated open roads and trails only.

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	4,642
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	0
Pinyon-juniper	2
Unsuitable	19,383
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	4,425
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	11
Suitable Timber lands	1,395
TOTAL	29,858

All of the following management direction are Guidelines.

Non-motorized and Motorized Trails

Provide low mileage of designated non-motorized trails in the MA and encourage self-exploration.

Consider motorized trail corridors in this MA. Consider routes along the secondary road system for multiple-use opportunities.

Discourage off-trail use of any kind on large cinder cones.

Recreation Signing

Clear signing and information should be provided to off highway vehicle drivers to make clear distinction between driving rules in the Cinder Hills OHV area the cinder cones outside of the OHV area.

Fire Suppression

Potential for crown fires will likely remain low to moderate because of the type of vegetation in this MA. The risk of ignition is also low to moderate. Continue efforts to re-establish fire wherever possible, especially in grassland areas.

Deadman Wash Management Area

Acres: 57,858

Description

The southern boundary of this MA is Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument, the Cinder Hills OHV area and Doney MA. The western boundary is Highway 89, the northern boundary is Wupatki National Monument, and the eastern boundary is the Forest boundary and Strawberry Wilderness. The southern portion contains portions of the San Francisco volcanic field with a field of large cinder cones sparsely covered by ponderosa pine trees and shrubs and covered with a deep layer of loose cinders. O'Leary Peak is the highest most prominent feature and is topped with a fire lookout tower. Bonito and O'Leary campgrounds are located adjacent to Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument.

The "moonscape" of impressive cinder cones in this MA provides remote, dispersed recreation opportunities and there is a stay on designated roads policy. The center of the MA is pinyon/juniper woodland that provides remote dispersed recreation opportunities and supports uses such as livestock grazing and firewood. The northern 1/3 of the MA is grassland with sparse pinyon/juniper trees. Deadman Wash is a prominent drainage. In the grassland areas, large patches are unroaded and remote recreation experiences are found. Access to Strawberry Crater Wilderness is located in this MA. Most of this MA is distant from the sites and sounds of urban areas. Highway 89 is located on the west boundary and FR545 passes through the southernmost part of the MA. There are private land inholdings along the Highway 89 corridor. A large KV electric line passes through the center of the MA. Some of the landforms hold religious and cultural significance to Native Americans. This MA supports plant and animal species adapted to cinder landscapes, pinyon-juniper woodland and grasslands.

Management Emphasis

Restore and maintain grasslands and grassland adapted wildlife species, especially antelope. Provide large tracts of un-roaded landscape for disturbance sensitive species and remote recreation experiences. Protect cultural resources. Continue opportunities for livestock grazing, hunting, and firewood gathering. Balance recreation use demands on O'Leary Peak with sensitive wildlife species needs and Native American cultural values.

Highlights include:

- Management Indicator Species (MIS) should be referenced by vegetation and landform type. For example, in pinyon/juniper woodland areas MIS are those listed for MA7.
- Progress towards the settings displayed on the *Objectives for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum* map. This includes expanding the current Semi-primitive Motorized areas,

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Deadman Wash

and adding Semi-primitive Non-motorized settings on O’Leary Peak and other large cinder cones. Maintain the Roaded Natural settings along passenger car road corridors and the large KV electric line.

- Provide day and overnight dispersed recreation opportunities with few system trails or facilities, except for Bonito and O’Leary Campgrounds.
- As stated in Management Area 10, maintain and improve grasslands, including removing encroaching pinyon/juniper and re-introducing fire. Maintain or improve watershed conditions throughout the MA.

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	3,209
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	0
Pinyon-juniper	76
Unsuitable	45,363
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	5,839
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	359
Suitable Timber lands	3,012
TOTAL	57,858

All of the following management direction are Guidelines.

Outfitter/Guides

Before permitting outfitter/guides adjacent to National Monuments, contact the National Park Service for coordination. Outfitter guiding might also help meet the mission of the National Park Service in the National Monuments or on adjacent National Forest lands

Follow FLEA area-wide direction including generally, do not place additional outfitter/guide activities or group activities in Deadman Wash, any spring or perennial stream site, except in support of approved research and/or to improve safety or provide site rehabilitation.

Non-motorized Trails

Determine whether or not the O’Leary Peak road (currently gated) should be designated as part of a non-motorized trail system. Consider methods to discourage off-trail use into sensitive areas, such as wildlife and cultural resources. Continue administrative road use for the lookout.

Provide short loop trail opportunities at the base of O’Leary Peak adjacent to O’Leary campground to encourage recreation use at the base of the Peak and west of O’Leary Road.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Deadman Wash

Cultural/Historical

Continue active monitoring of cultural and historical sites to impacts from recreation, cattle grazing, firewood cutting, and other human uses. Changes in management can occur in response to demonstrated (through monitoring) negative impacts to archaeological resources. Take advantage of available Park Service personnel to assist with monitoring.

Scenery

Consider impacts to viewsheds of the National Monuments and consider input from Park Service personnel when designing or approving projects in these viewsheds.

Forestry

Green firewood cutting is a tool for grassland restoration. Continue efforts to limit illegal firewood gathering and enforce firewood harvest regulations. However, if firewood cutting for personal home use causes impacts to sensitive areas, adjust firewood policy as needed. This policy is adjusted annually for the Forest.

Livestock Grazing

Take steps to ensure cattle do not concentrate on sensitive cultural sites. Techniques to meet this objective include: placing new improvements such as water sources and fences away from sites; no salting at these sites; change pasture graze period at these sites; and closing parts of pastures to grazing.

Fire Suppression

The potential for crown fire remains low to moderate because of the vegetation types within this MA. Risk of ignition is also low to moderate. Continue efforts to re-establish fire wherever possible, especially in grasslands.

Coordination with National Park Service

See FLEA area-wide direction related to Memorandum of Understanding's (MOU's).

Specific coordination items related to this MA include FR 545, Bonito and O'Leary campgrounds, O'Leary Peak, NPS administrative site, and the location of a potential future new visitor center.

Coordinate with Sunset Crater Volcano and Wupatki National Monuments in managing dispersed recreation use adjacent to the Monuments.

Doney Management Area

Acres: 41,014

Description

This MA surrounds the communities of Timberline, Fernwood, Doney Park, Cosnino, Winona, Rain Valley, Black Bill, and extends to the City of Flagstaff's eastern developed areas. The western boundary is Shultz Pass Road and the base of Mt. Elden, the southern boundary is I-40 and Walnut Canyon National Monument, the eastern boundary is the large KV electric line (Craters MA) and the northern boundary is the Cinder Hills OHV area. The City of Flagstaff Landfill is located in this MA.

Large tracts of private land occur with some inholdings of National Forest and State lands. These communities are rural residential and many residents raise animals such as horses, sled dogs, and llamas. ATV's are a popular mode of travel. The entire MA provides dispersed recreation opportunities and receives heavy use adjacent to private land. Activities include hiking, horse riding, mountain biking, ATV riding, and driving. Private land has developed quickly and public access to National Forest land is becoming scarce. Forest lands provide a scenic backdrop to residential areas. Many people have listed the forest as one of the quality-of-life items that drew them to Flagstaff. Nearby outdoor recreation opportunities and forest scenery are highly appreciated by residents and tourists. Some cinder cones and drainages in this MA hold traditional cultural values for Native Americans. Highway 89 passes through the center of the MA along with the Townsend Winona Road and I-40.

West of Highway 89 vegetation is ponderosa pine (most less than 40 percent slope). The remainder of the MA is pinyon/juniper woodland with patches of grassland near subdivisions. Cinder soils occur in the northern portion along with some large cinder cones, the most prominent being Old Caves Crater, and O'Neal Crater. The Rio De Flag winds through the MA, located on a mix of private and National Forest land. South of I-40 there are tracts of grasslands. There is deer winter range at the base of Mt. Elden. The Old Caves Crater Environmental Study Area (ESA) is located within this MA (see MA17 for more information). The Arizona Trail passes through the southern portion of this MA.

Management Emphasis

Most of this MA is within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, especially within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. Re-introduce fire's natural role as much as possible. Emphasize daytime recreation activities, both motorized and non-motorized. Balance recreation demands with protection of soils, water, and vegetation. Maintain public access to public lands. Restore natural grasslands, and promote healthy pinyon/juniper woodland. Ponderosa pine lands progress towards desired forest structure (goshawk habitat). Reduce instances of illegal activities and trash dumping. Maintain scenic quality.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Doney

Opportunities for firewood or other forest products are rare, however, firewood sales may be used as a tool for management.

Highlights include:

- Per the *Objectives for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum* map, expand Semi-primitive Non-motorized settings on a few of the large cinder cones in this MA. Expand Semi-primitive Motorized settings in other areas and continue Roaded Natural corridors along major roads. In this MA, the Semi-primitive settings have higher numbers of people than occur in outlying MA's.
- This MA is a high priority for efforts to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire especially in the ponderosa pine lands. Reference FLEA area-wide direction and the *Forest Plan* related to vegetation and fire management.
- Per the area-wide FLEA direction: meet with specific communities and County officials and consider input for Forest road and trail management, discourage proliferation of unneeded trails, create a primary trail system that serves as a collector for trails that originate in neighborhoods, convert some roads that are not needed for the road system into motorized trails, and provide pass through corridors for vehicles and ATV/motorcycles that leads to a separate motorized trails or to the secondary Forest road system.
- Per FLEA area-wide direction the Management Indicator Species (MIS) within the urban rural influence zone are pygmy nuthatch, and hairy woodpecker. In the remainder of the MA, MIS should be referenced by vegetation and landform type. For example, in pinyon/juniper woodland areas MIS are those listed for MA7.

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	7,987
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	0
Pinyon-juniper	0
Unsuitable	15,188
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	3,744
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	86
Suitable Timber lands	14,009
TOTAL	41,014

All of the following management direction are Guidelines.

Outfitter/Guides

Before permitting outfitter/guides adjacent to National Monuments, contact the National Park Service for coordination. Outfitter guiding might also help meet the mission of the National Park Service in the National Monuments or on adjacent National Forest lands.

Non-motorized and Motorized Trails

When conducting trail planning as described in the FLEA area-wide direction, include discussions and input from the Coconino County trails coordinator and local groups, as well as community citizens. Complicated access issues and a multitude of recreation demands occur here.

Balance demands for non-motorized and motorized trails in this MA and provide opportunities for both.

Focus road and trail rehabilitation work on the large cinder cones, in meadows and grasslands where impacts are occurring to soils, plants, and cultural sites.

Scenery

Consider impacts to viewsheds of the National Monuments and consider input from Park Service personnel when designing or approving projects in these viewsheds.

Cultural/Historical

Continue active monitoring of cultural and historical sites to impacts.

Fire Suppression

In the ponderosa pine forests the potential for large fires should be low on flat to rolling areas and moderate to high on steep slopes and drainages. In the pinyon-juniper forests the potential should continue to be low to moderate. Very extreme conditions must exist in order for pinyon-juniper forests to support large fires. This area is at high risk for ignition but fire frequency is low.

Coordination with National Park Service

See FLEA area-wide direction related to Memorandum of Understanding's (MOU's).

Specific coordination items related to this MA include the potential new location for a visitor center, coordinated prescribed fire activities, fencing of National Monument lands, and illegal access onto the Monument.

Coordination with Centennial Forest

Two Centennial Forest parcels are located in this MA. Coordinate with the Director of the Centennial Forest when conducting management activities on adjacent Forest lands.

Flagstaff Management Area

Acres: 1,366

Description

There are approximately 1,377 acres of National Forest land within the proposed Urban Growth Boundary in the draft *Flagstaff Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan* (RLUTP). On the south side of Flagstaff there is an area north of the airport identified as a potential regional park. There are lands that surround the airport, which the City has an interest in obtaining for airport use, or office/business park development and there is a parcel near Weitzel School the City is interested in as a neighborhood park.

Management Emphasis

All of the lands not directly needed by the Forest Service for its facilities become low priority for retention in Forest Service ownership. In addition, we also are not planning new developments in these areas. As long as these lands remain in National Forest ownership, within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone (entire MA), reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, emphasize daytime non-motorized recreation opportunities and balance recreation demands with protection of the soils, water, wildlife and vegetation, and maintain public access to public lands. Reduce instances of illegal activities and trash dumping. Maintain scenic quality. Opportunities for firewood or other forest products are rare, however, firewood sales may be used as a tool for management.

Highlights include:

- Emphasize Roaded Natural ROS settings with few roads and trails or facilities.
- Continue efforts in partnership with the City of Flagstaff to treat forested stands to reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire.
- These lands are a high priority for treatment of noxious weeds.

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	245
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	24
Pinyon-juniper	0
Unsuitable	0
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	14
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	39
Suitable Timber lands	1,044
TOTAL	1,366

Guidelines are the same as the West MA in the Urban/Rural Influence Zone.

Lake Mary Watershed Management Area

Acres: 62,476

Description

The northern boundary is the Walnut MA (including a section of FH3 - Lake Mary Road), the eastern boundary is the FLEA boundary generally located on the Lake Mary Watershed break, the southern boundary is also the edge of the FLEA area, including the north facing slopes of Mormon Mountain (watershed break), the western boundary borders the West MA near the community of Mountainaire. There are scattered parcels of private land mostly concentrated in the northwestern 1/3 of the MA. Communities include Elk Park Meadows, Lake Mary Meadows, Lake Mary store and trailer park, and the east side of Mountainaire.

The majority of this MA is a rolling landscape of ponderosa pine with Gambel oak intermixed. Steep slopes with mixed conifer and shrubs occur on portions of Mormon Mountain and in a few large drainages. Oak and pine provide habitat for Mexican spotted owls and other sensitive species. Elk are numerous. This MA covers the lake basins of Upper and Lower Lake Mary, including Marshall Lake. Unique and diverse sets of wildlife species use the lakes and shorelines. The eagle/osprey emphasis area is located here.

Along the Lake Mary Road (FH3) corridor there are numerous developed recreation sites including day-use picnic areas, boat ramps, campgrounds, and parking areas. Upper and Lower Lake Mary provide water based recreation such as motorized and non-motorized boating and fishing. Marshall Lake is located off of paved roads and provides non-motorized boating, waterfowl hunting, and fishing. Lowell observatory has facilities located on Anderson Mesa. The Arizona Trail passes by Marshall Lake. Beyond the Lakes, people appreciate dispersed camping, wildlife viewing, hunting, driving for pleasure, and many other kinds of forest recreation. Many campers come from the Phoenix metro-area in the summer months. Other uses include livestock grazing and firewood cutting. Water sites, seeps, and sinkholes may hold traditional values for Native Americans.

Lake Mary provides water to the City of Flagstaff water system

Management Emphasis

Focus on maintenance and/or improvement of soil condition and watershed function. Degraded meadows and stream channels will be improved through a variety of management activities designed to increase herbaceous ground cover and litter and reduce soil erosion. System roads and trails will receive adequate maintenance so that accelerated soil erosion is minimal. Non-system roads will be rehabilitated and some poorly located roads will be re-located.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Lake Mary

The northwestern portion of this MA is within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, especially within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. Reduce instances of illegal activities and trash dumping. Maintain scenic quality. Opportunities for firewood or other forest products are rare in the northwest portion; however, firewood sales may be used as a tool for management.

In the entire MA, re-introduce fire's natural role as much as possible, and ponderosa pine lands progress towards desired forest structure (goshawk habitat).

In the lakes, maintain the variety of fish, waterfowl, raptors, amphibians, and many different kinds of plants adapted to lake environments. Emphasize healthy shorelines adjacent to the water with ample ground cover, and little erosion or compaction. Minimize human disturbance to wildlife, where needed, during the critical times. Continue to provide general dispersed and water-based recreation opportunities. Improve wildlife viewing opportunities where wildlife viewing is compatible with wildlife habitat.

Highlights include:

- Per FLEA area-wide direction the Management Indicator Species (MIS) within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone are pygmy nuthatch and hairy woodpecker. In the remainder of the MA, MIS should be referenced by vegetation and landform type. For example, in ponderosa pine lands less than 40 percent slope MIS are those listed for MA3.
- In the Urban/Rural Influence Zone, per the area-wide FLEA direction: meet with specific communities, interested people, City and County officials and consider input for Forest road and trail management, discourage proliferation of unneeded trails, create a primary trail system that serves as a collector for trails that originate in neighborhoods, convert some roads that are not needed for the road system into motorized trails.
- Maintain existing recreation facilities and improve signing, parking, and sanitation. Balance recreation demands with sensitive resources such as species habitats, fragile riparian vegetation, and erosive soils where they occur. Continue to focus high levels of use on the Lake Mary Road side of the lakes.
- Riparian communities should have adequate native plant cover to protect stream banks and dissipate energy during high flows.
- In the Lake Mary Watershed, high priority is given to minimizing soil erosion and sedimentation from Forest system roads and trails. Proper maintenance and drainage will be emphasized as well as relocation of roads from meadows and obliteration of unnecessary roads.
- Per the *Objectives for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum* map, expand Semi-primitive Motorized areas and maintain Roaded Natural corridors along major roads. New Semi-primitive Non-motorized patches should be created on Mormon Mountain in sensitive species habitat.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Lake Mary

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	5,921
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	309
Pinyon-juniper	94
Unsuitable	3,979
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	6,958
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	204
Suitable Timber lands	45,011
TOTAL	62,476

All of the following management direction are Guidelines.

Recreation

Provide designated parking spots along Lake Mary Road where it borders Lower and Upper Lakes Mary. Limit parking to certain spots along the highway and/or in current paved parking areas. Techniques may include installing physical barriers and implementing enforcement policies that manage parking.

Provide additional sanitation facilities along the Upper and Lower Lakes Mary corridor, especially where large numbers of people tend to congregate.

Continue current seasonal motorized restrictions in the Pinegrove Seasonal Closure Area.

Recreation Signing

Informational signs and patrols will be similar to what they are today. The Forest Recreational map is the primary information tool. These areas may be somewhat "advertised."

Near the lakes continue to provide brochures, signs, and other information about the site. In addition, endeavor to improve wildlife viewing and education opportunities.

Camping

Per the *Objectives for Camping* map, camping is designated dispersed camping sites in the Lake Mary and Marshall Lake areas. Continue the current developed campground opportunities and continue general dispersed camping in the rest of the MA.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Lake Mary

Designated dispersed camping opportunities will be identified along the south shore of Upper Lake Mary for boat-in camping. Camping should occur in designated sites only on the south shore. Locate designated camping an appropriate distance from raptor nests. Sites will be closed, re-opened or rotated as needed for area rehabilitation. Foster good sanitation practices and encourage boaters to pack-it-out, or if needed design sanitation facilities so as not to create sources of human waste pollution.

Outfitter/Guides

Do not issue outfitter/guide permits or permit use that causes significant change for the ROS social or managerial setting, such as allowing airboats or seaplanes on the lakes.

Non-motorized and Motorized Trails

Continue the current non-motorized Arizona Trail corridor through the MA.

Outside of the Urban/Rural Influence Zone, adoption of user-created trails is unlikely. Provide low mileage of designated non-motorized trails in the remainder of the MA and encourage self-exploration.

Consider motorized trail corridors in this MA. The secondary road system should provide for multiple-use opportunities.

Livestock Grazing

Follow current *Forest Plan* direction¹⁶

Wildlife

Take actions at Marshall Lake to continue use and enjoyment of Marshall Lake and to maintain important waterfowl nesting habitat. Continue maintenance of the Marshall Lake wetland in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department through such actions as matting, mowing or other actions that create waterholes in the reeds. Maintain the current boat ramp and enhance wildlife viewing opportunities. Consider making a portion of the lake and adjacent forested areas, an enclosure that prohibits dogs, people, and hunting during the waterfowl-nesting season of May 1 to July 15 to increase nesting success of upland game birds.

Refer to more recent management guidelines and conservation assessments that exist for bald eagle winter habitat management.

The designated bald eagle/osprey emphasis area should be expanded to include future perch and roost trees in key areas.

¹⁶ This Allotment is closed to grazing in 2000 for 10 years or until a new NEPA analysis is initiated.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Lake Mary

Background Notes

This MA includes areas that support high densities of suitable roost and perch trees adjacent to Lower Lake Mary, a heavily used eagle and osprey area given favorable prey conditions. Many existing roost and perch trees are threatened by possible mortality due to insect infestation and loss of vigor due to high stand densities and by potential loss due to catastrophic fire. Current conditions for recruitment of future perch and roost trees (tall, large trees with open crowns) are not favorable due to higher stand densities. Other logical and important locations for future eagle perches and/or roosts adjacent to Lower Lake Mary are omitted from the current emphasis area boundaries. These locations are stands 341-8, 10, 14, and 15

Watershed

This area is a high priority for fixing drainage culverts, relocating roads from meadows, and obliterating unnecessary roads so that erosion does not degrade water quality in Lake Mary.

Roads, trails, camping, and grazing will be managed to improve watershed condition particularly within mountain meadows, springs, and drainages.

Improve watershed conditions in Priest Draw.

Fire Management

Per the FLEA Area-wide direction, reduce potential for catastrophic wildfire within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. Because of prevailing winds, lands south and west of the Urban/Rural Influence Zone should be evaluated for wildfire risks and appropriate measures taken to reduce potential for catastrophic fire. Continue partnerships with city, county, and State fire departments to coordinate fire hazard reduction treatments, prevention, and suppression. Take steps to minimize wildfire losses to key wildlife habitat components such as eagle roosts, osprey nests, and sensitive plant habitat.



Schultz Management Area

Acres: 21,334

Description

The west boundary is the West MA, the north boundary is the Kachina Peaks Wilderness boundary and a small portion of FR 418. The east boundary is the Doney MA, the northern boundary is FR 418, the west boundary is Kachina Peaks Wilderness, and the southern boundary is the Mt. Elden Environmental Study Area. Prominent landscape features include the Dry Lake Hills, Mount Elden, and the eastern slopes of the San Francisco Mountain.

Meadows and riparian sites are few and therefore are key parts of the landscape. Dense forests of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer, along with geologic features and stands of aspen, provide habitats for a diversity of wildlife, including raptors, bear, and turkey.

There are a very few small private land inholdings in the MA. A communication site and fire lookout are located on Mt. Elden and accessed via the Elden Lookout Road. A natural gas underground pipeline skirts the southern edge of the MA. The Mount Elden/Dry Lake Hills Trail system provides 47 miles of non-motorized trail opportunities. People enjoy extraordinary outdoor recreation and appreciate the developed trail system with easy access from the City of Flagstaff. Social values include scenic beauty; appreciation of wildlife such as bear, turkey, and raptors, and remote forest recreation opportunities. This entire MA holds important religious and traditional values to American Indians.

Management Emphasis

A small portion of this MA is within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, especially within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. Re-introduce fire's natural role as much as possible. Emphasize daytime recreation activities, primarily non-motorized in the Urban/Rural Influence Zone and provide designated camping sites in the Dry Lake Hills. Balance recreation demands with protection of the soils, water, vegetation, and sensitive species. This includes defining limits on recreation individual, group or outfitter/guide use if analysis shows a need.

Maintain drainages and meadows for watershed health and water quality. Ponderosa pine lands progress towards desired forest structure (goshawk habitat). Reduce instances of illegal activities and trash dumping. Maintain scenic quality. Opportunities for firewood or other forest products are rare; however, firewood sales may be used as a tool for management.

Highlights include:

- In the Mt. Elden/Dry Lake Hills area, people should be mostly on the trail system, leaving undisturbed patches of habitat in between. Wildlife habitat will be somewhat

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Schultz

fragmented because of the extent of the trail system, but topography and dense mixed conifer vegetation reduce some of the effects.

- Per the *Objectives for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum* map, maintain the Semi-primitive Non-motorized setting in the Dry Lake Hills and expand the Semi-primitive Non-motorized setting below the Waterline Road. Expand Semi-primitive Motorized settings in the remainder of the MA with Roaded Natural corridors along major roads.
- Maintain the Dry Lake Hills Trail system for non-motorized recreation trail opportunities. Few if any additions are needed to this system.
- Maintain the two Mexican spotted owl PACs.

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	243
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	0
Pinyon-juniper	0
Unsuitable	1,144
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	7,992
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	72
Suitable Timber lands	11,883
TOTAL	21,334

All of the following management direction are Guidelines.

Recreation

Identify designated parking spots along the roads of this MA where recreational uses are heavy.

Maintain the non-motorized status of the base of Mt. Elden to protect deer winter habitat and cultural sites and to provide for high levels of non-motorized recreation.

Recreation Signing

In the Mount Elden/Dry Lake Hills area there will be extensive signing, brochures, and patrols so that visitors can easily find trails and facilities.

In the area east of the Waterline Road informational signs and patrols will be similar to what they are today. Brochures or other information would be minimal. Recreation opportunities here will not be "advertised."

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Schultz

Camping

Per the *Objectives for Camping* map, designate dispersed camping sites in the Mount Elden/Dry Lake Hills area.

Monitor backcountry camping for impacts.

Outfitter/Guides

Per FLEA Area-wide direction, generally, do not place additional outfitter/guide activities or group activities in the Dry Lake Hills, any spring or perennial stream site, except in support of approved research, and/or to improve safety or provide site rehabilitation.

Non-motorized and Motorized Trails

Maintain the current trail system. Maintain and improve trailhead parking and identify designated parking spots. Relocate trailhead parking on the Elden Lookout Road to balance use with sensitive MSO habitat.

Discourage off-trail use.

Evaluate the Shultz Creek trail for conversion to a non-motorized trail.

Maintain the Waterline Road as a heavily used non-motorized recreation corridor. Administrative use is motorized.

Do not pursue motorized trails in the Dry Lake Hills or east of the Waterline Road.

Between Timberline and other communities, consider a motorized connection. Use the secondary road system to provide motorized access.

Wildlife

Within the Semi-primitive Non-motorized ROS settings maintain large tracts of unfragmented habitat for disturbance sensitive species, such as turkey and bear.

Fire Management

Per the FLEA Area-wide direction, reduce potential for catastrophic wildfire within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. Because of prevailing winds and steep terrain, lands north and east of the Urban/Rural Influence Zone should be evaluated for wildfire risks and appropriate measures taken to reduce potential for catastrophic fire. Continue partnerships with City, County, and State fire departments to coordinate fire hazard reduction treatments, prevention, and suppression.

Special Areas - MA 17 - Environmental Study Areas

Acres: 1,586

Description

Mt. Elden ESA - Located at the base of Mt. Elden adjacent to the subdivisions of Shadow Mountain, Paradise Hills, Skyline Estates, and Swiss Manor, and adjacent to Buffalo Park. Originally a bird sanctuary, the Elden Environmental Study Area (ESA) serves a unique purpose. Trails provide for popular hikes that are convenient and easy to use. The area is available for study and recreation and has become an integral part of the Flagstaff Public School curriculum. In addition, the Elden ESA is popular daytime destination for hiking, dog-walking, mountain-biking, and horse riding. There are many formal access points developed along the edge of subdivisions providing public access. There are many informal access points and social trails as well. This ESA strengthens the opportunities for partnerships between the school, the Forest Service, and Arizona Game and Fish Department. A wintering deer herd provides an opportunity for wildlife viewing and monitoring by the students. The El Paso natural gas pipeline crosses the area.

Old Caves Crater ESA - Old Caves Crater is located north of Silver Saddle Road, east of Highway 89, and adjacent to Doney Park communities. This large volcanic cinder cone has diverse vegetation, provides scenic backdrops to surrounding residents, and contains archaeological sites and cultural values. Teachers at Cromer School have developed a curriculum for the area and students walk from the school to the site. There are trails in the area and high levels of non-motorized daytime dispersed recreation use.

Griffith's Spring ESA - Griffith's Spring is located south of Flagstaff on Highway 89A, adjacent to the Forest Highlands community and just south of Pine Dell. Among a variety of uses, local teachers have used the spring and its stream channel as an outdoor classroom. Visitors traveling Highway 89A stop here for picnics and daytime walks. Nearby residents also enjoy the area. There is a stream channel with riparian vegetation and aquatic species. A nearby wet meadow adds additional diversity.

Management Emphasis

Elden ESA now includes an area behind Christensen Elementary School. The area directly behind Christensen and the Peaks Ranger Station is adjacent to the current Elden ESA.

Emphasize environmental education opportunities for the Flagstaff Public Schools and the general public by maintaining the ecosystem and developing interpretive facilities. Since these areas fall within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone, emphasize fuels reduction and other techniques to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Non-motorized dispersed recreation is encouraged. Visual resource

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Special Areas – Environmental Study Areas

management and watershed condition are emphasized. Cultural resources are protected and where appropriate interpretation of cultural resources is provided. Low fire potential exists with fire's role re-established in the ecosystem. Meadows and drainages function properly and aquatic species are maintained.

Highlights include:

- In the Elden ESA implement tree thinning, prescribed fire or other activities that lessen risk of catastrophic wildfire and maintain shrubs, such as Arizona cliffrose, that provide winter food source for deer.
- Implement improvements in the Old Caves Crater that improve watershed health, protect fragile archaeological sites, restore vegetation to bare soil areas, close the area to motorized vehicles, and provide trails for non-motorized daytime recreation uses. Examples of improvements are; marking the boundary of the area with fenceline along private landlines, locate and adopt some trails and obliterate others, provide signing, change roads to trails or obliterate them, and locate a trail to the top of the Crater.
- Continue improvements to the Griffith's Spring area to provide for recreation and outdoor education and protects stream banks, riparian vegetation, aquatic wildlife species, and scenery. Examples of improvements are: parking areas, pole fences, interpretive and environmental education information, directional signing, and a vault toilet. The relocation and construction of trail and the closure and rehabilitation of two-track road are needed to prevent loss of vegetation, erosion and damage to streambanks, soil compaction, and excessive water turbidity. The construction of aspen/willow fences around a small area is needed to prevent browsing damage by elk and deer.

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	59
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	0
Pinyon-juniper	0
Unsuitable	96
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	252
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	399
Suitable Timber lands	780
TOTAL	1,586

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Special Areas – Environmental Study Areas

All of the following management direction are Guidelines.

Recreation

Develop the Elden ESA in accordance with the concept plan map prepared by the Recreation Resource Center for Environmental Education and Flagstaff Public Schools.

Plan and support uses and trails in conjunction with the curriculum needs of the Flagstaff Public Schools. Develop environmental education programs cooperatively with public schools.

Support the Arizona Natural Area Council's recommended designation of the Elden ESA as an Educational Natural Area.

Dispersed Recreation

Maintain boundary fencing.

The Elden ESA is open to the public for foot traffic and day use only. Use the El Paso Natural gas line as a trail in conjunction with the Mt. Elden/Dry Lake Hills trail system. Horses are allowed on the pipeline trail.

Enforce off-road driving closures. Make a special effort through the schools and the media to focus public attention on the importance of complying with the closure for all areas.

Special-Uses

New special-use authorizations or amendments to existing special-use authorizations that would or could adversely affect or change the character of the ESA are not allowed.

Forestry

Conduct inventory, planning, examinations, and evaluations as requested by other resources. No timber activities are planned, except to control severe insect or disease outbreaks, or fire hazard reductions. If timber activities are necessary, the Forest will plan, prepare, administer, and sell miscellaneous products to achieve management objectives.

Livestock Grazing

The areas are not currently open to livestock grazing.

Fire Suppression

The area is urban interface with an immediate suppression objective of 10 acres or less.

Prescribed Burning

Prescribed fires from planned ignitions are used to accomplish fuel treatment and other resource management objectives.



Walnut Management Area

Acres: 21,942

Description

Adjacent communities include: Fairfield neighborhood, Herold Ranch, and communities along Lake Mary Road.

The northern boundary is private land on the southeast side of Flagstaff (Flagstaff MA) and a portion of I-40. The communities of Fairfield Continental, Herold Ranch, and the new Fairway Peaks are nearby. The eastern boundary is the Walnut Canyon entrance road, a portion of the Monument boundary, and the FLEA boundary. The southern boundary is the Lake Mary MA and the western boundary is Lake Mary Road. Large tracts of private land border this MA. There are small inholdings of private land along Lake Mary Road, but little private land in the interior of the MA. Walnut Canyon National Monument and State land sections are located in the northern ½ of the MA. No paved roads or utility corridors occur except on the boundaries.

Walnut Canyon dominates this MA, running from the end of Lower Lake Mary to Fisher Point and turning east towards Winona. The steepest section of the canyon with many archaeological sites is located within Walnut Canyon National Monument. The canyon itself supports a multitude of vegetation types and habitats from steep north facing mixed conifer, to riparian vegetation at the canyon bottom. The scenery is spectacular. There are Forest system trails, including the Arizona Trail in the canyon itself and along the rim. Disturbance sensitive wildlife species occur in secluded portions of the canyon and along the rim. Cultural sites are numerous and the canyon holds Native Americans religious values. Walnut Canyon and its major side drainages are closed to motorized vehicles. Fisher Point is a popular destination for hikers, mountain bikers, and outfitter/guided horse trips. Canyon Vista is popular for climbing.

Lands outside of the canyon are ponderosa pine with Gambel oak understory, and some pinyon and juniper. North and west of Walnut canyon the area provides dispersed recreation opportunities and receives heavy use adjacent to private land and Lake Mary Road. Activities include hiking, horse riding, and mountain biking. Major roads provide access and other areas are closed to vehicles. The areas south and east of Walnut Canyon provide more remote dispersed recreation opportunities including motorized travelways.

Social values include scenic beauty, appreciation of wildlife such as bear, turkey, and raptors, and remote forest recreation opportunities. Despite increasing numbers of people in the greater Flagstaff area, this MA maintains large tracts of unfragmented habitat for disturbance-sensitive species such as owls, turkey, and bear primarily south of Walnut Canyon.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Walnut

Management Emphasis

A small portion of this MA is within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, especially within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. Re-introduce fire's natural role as much as possible. North and west of Walnut Canyon emphasize daytime recreation activities, primarily non-motorized. South and east of Walnut Canyon emphasize remote dispersed recreation (day and overnight) with motorized and non-motorized opportunities. Balance recreation demands with protection of the soils, water, vegetation, and sensitive species. Maintain drainages for watershed health and water quality. Maintain sensitive species habitat. Ponderosa pine lands progress towards desired forest structure (goshawk habitat). Reduce instances of illegal activities and trash dumping. Maintain scenic quality. Opportunities for firewood or other forest products are rare north and west of the Canyon, however, firewood sales may be used as a tool for management.

Highlights include:

- Per the *Objectives for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum* map, expand Primitive (Non-motorized) settings in and around the steepest portions of Walnut Canyon. Expand Semi-primitive Non-motorized settings on Campbell Mesa, and around Walnut Canyon. Continue Roaded Natural settings in some portions of the MA along the Lake Mary Road corridor.
- Balance recreation demands with sensitive resources such as sensitive species habitats, fragile riparian vegetation, and erosive soils on steep slopes.
- Per FLEA area-wide direction the Management Indicator Species (MIS) within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone are pygmy nuthatch and hairy woodpecker. In the remainder of the MA, MIS should be referenced by vegetation and landform type. For example, in ponderosa pine lands less than 40 percent slope, MIS are those listed for MA3.
- Reduce the risk of catastrophic fire especially in the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. There is concern for wildfire losses to the National Monument from fires starting southeast of the park. Balance the need to reduce wildfire risk in these areas with desired conditions for Primitive and Semi-primitive ROS settings and disturbance sensitive species habitat. Reference FLEA area-wide direction and other the *Forest Plan* management direction related to vegetation and fire management.
- Per the area-wide FLEA direction: meet with specific communities, City and County officials and consider input for Forest road and trail management, discourage proliferation of unneeded trails, create a primary trail system that serves as a collector for trails that originate in neighborhoods, convert some roads that are not needed for the road system into motorized trails.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Walnut

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	948
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	0
Pinyon-juniper	0
Unsuitable	5,923
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	5,894
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	137
Suitable Timber lands	9,040
TOTAL	21,942

All of the following management direction are Guidelines.

Recreation

High-quality daytime recreation will be available with few developed recreation facilities.

Recreation Signing

Informational signs and patrols will be similar to what they are today.

Outfitter/Guides

Before permitting outfitter/guides adjacent to National Monuments, contact the National Park Service for coordination. Outfitter guiding might also help meet the mission of the National Park Service in the National Monuments or on adjacent National Forest lands

Follow FLEA area-wide direction including generally, do not place additional outfitter/guide activities or group activities in Walnut Canyon from Fisher Point east, any spring or perennial stream site, except in support of approved research and/or to improve safety or provide site rehabilitation.

Non-motorized and Motorized Trails

Recreation use should be concentrated along main corridors with few roads, trails, and people in between.

Continue the current non-motorized status in the areas of Skunk and Fay Canyons, Canyon Vista, Fisher Point, and Campbell Mesa.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
Walnut

Scenery

Consider impacts to viewsheds of the National Monument and consider input from Park Service personnel when designing or approving projects in this viewshed.

Cultural/Historical

Continue active monitoring of cultural and historical sites to impacts from recreation, cattle grazing, firewood cutting, and other human uses. Changes in management can occur in response to demonstrated (through monitoring) negative impacts to archaeological resources. Take advantage of available Park Service personnel to assist with monitoring.

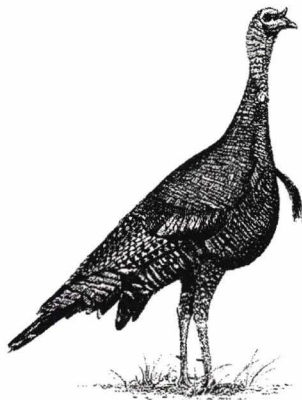
Wildlife

In the Primitive, Semi-primitive Non-motorized, and Semi-primitive Motorized ROS settings maintain large tracts of unfragmented habitat for turkey and bear.

Coordination with National Park Service

See FLEA area-wide direction related to Memorandum of Understanding's (MOU's).

Specific coordination items related to this MA include fencing of newly acquired National Monument lands, access and interpretation of the "first fort" area and other portions of the Monument.



West Management Area

Acres: 40,390

Description

The northern boundary is the FLEA boundary (portion of the Kachina Peaks Wilderness boundary), the west boundary is the FLEA boundary just west of Fort Valley, and bordering Camp Navajo and portions of Woody Ridge. The southern boundary is the rim near the switchbacks on Highway 89A, and the eastern boundary is the Lake Mary MA near Mountainaire, private land on the west side of Flagstaff, and the Schultz MA.

Much of the land in this MA is either private land or State land with interspersed National Forest land. Adjacent communities include or are nearby: Lowell Observatory, Museum of Northern Arizona, Fort Valley, Hidden Hollow, Cheshire, Fort Tuthill, WL Gore facility, Equestrian Estates, Pine Dell, Mountain Dell, University Heights, University Highlands, Forest Highlands, Kachina Village, Mountainaire, lands south of the Flagstaff Airport, Flagstaff Ranch Road, Old Route 66, Naval Observatory, Dry Lake, and The Arboretum at Flagstaff.

At the top of the switchbacks on Highway 89A, Oak Creek Vista currently receives over 300,000 visitors annually and is the busiest recreation site on the Coconino Forest. No other National Forest developed recreation facilities exist in this MA. Fort Tuthill is a Coconino County regional park and the Flagstaff Urban Trail system has segments that cross National Forest land. The Highway 89A corridor is popular for dispersed camping, that is frequently overflow from Oak Creek Canyon. Other highways in this MA include I-17, I-40, a small segment of Highway 180 and the lower 2 miles of the Snowbowl Road. Areas near urban/residential areas receive high levels of daytime use by nearby residents. Activities include horse riding, mountain biking, ATV riding, jogging, and hiking. There are equestrian centers nearby.

Prominent features include the southern slopes of the San Francisco Mountain, A-1 Mountain, Observatory Mesa, Dry Lake, Rodgers Lake, Woody Mountain, Woody Ridge, and the Oak Creek rim. Vegetation is mostly ponderosa pine with Gambel oak understory and mixed conifer on steep slopes and within drainages. There is a mix of disturbance sensitive and other wildlife species in the MA, and a wildlife travelway near A-1 Mountain provides wildlife access to the San Francisco Mountain and areas south. Areas support Mexican spotted owls and other sensitive species.

The Pumphouse Wash canyon supports a variety of vegetation types and habitats from steep north facing mixed conifer, to abundant riparian vegetation in the canyon bottom. The scenery is spectacular. Disturbance sensitive wildlife species such as peregrine falcon, Mexican spotted owls, turkey, bear, and mountain lion occur in the canyon and along the rim. Pumphouse Wash drains into Oak Creek and high quality water is emphasized.

Many people have listed the presence of the forest as one of the quality-of-life items that drew them to Flagstaff. Nearby outdoor recreation opportunities and forest scenery are highly appreciated by residents and tourists. People enjoy the scenery, and nearby residents value outdoor recreation and scenic backdrops. The slopes of the San Francisco Mountain

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
West

hold significant religious and cultural values to Native Americans, along with some cinder cones and drainages.

Management Emphasis

More than half of this MA is within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone. Within the Urban/Rural Influence Zone, and along the Highway 89A corridor, reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, emphasize daytime recreation activities, both motorized and non-motorized, balance recreation demands with protection of the soils, water, wildlife and vegetation, and maintain public access to public lands. Reduce instances of illegal activities and trash dumping. Maintain scenic quality. Opportunities for firewood or other forest products are rare, however, firewood sales may be used as a tool for management. Maintain wildlife travelways.

In the remainder of the MA, re-introduce fire's natural role as much as possible, progress towards desired conditions described (MSO and goshawk guidelines), restore meadows, and promote healthy pine/oak forests. Minimize recreation impacts to disturbance sensitive species. Maintain wildlife travelways.

Take actions to help protect and maintain high quality water in Oak Creek.

Highlights include:

- Along Woody Ridge there are large tracts of unfragmented habitat and remote recreation opportunities including Semi-primitive Motorized and Semi-primitive Non-motorized ROS settings with Roaded Natural corridors. The challenge here will be to maintain remote characteristics as new residential development occurs on the west side of Flagstaff. Maintain Woody Ridge as a Semi-primitive Non-motorized ROS setting with walk-in hunting opportunities.
- Reference the *Fort Valley Ecosystem Management Environmental Assessment* and the "A-1" *10K Ecosystem Management Environmental Assessment* for site-specific desired conditions and actions.
- Per the *Objectives for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum* map, maintain Semi-primitive Non-motorized settings on portions of Woody Ridge, A-1 Mountain and west of A-1 Mountain. In the remainder of National Forest lands, maintain patches of Semi-primitive Motorized habitat with Roaded Natural corridors along major roads or in smaller National Forest inholdings. In this MA, the Semi-primitive settings have higher numbers of people than occur in outlying MA's.
- The portions of this MA that lie southwest of developed lands are high priority for fire risk reduction efforts. This includes the Urban/Rural Influence Zone and the Wildland Urban Interface as depicted on the Fire Management Analysis Zones map. Reference FLEA area-wide direction.
- Per the area-wide FLEA direction: meet with specific communities and County officials and consider input for Forest road and trail management, discourage proliferation of unneeded trails, create a primary trail system that serves as a collector for trails that originate in neighborhoods, convert some roads that are not needed for the road system into motorized trails, and

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
West

provide pass through corridors for vehicles and ATV/motorcycles that leads to a separate motorized trails or to the secondary forest road system.

- Per FLEA area-wide direction the Management Indicator Species (MIS) within the Urban Rural Influence Zone are pygmy nuthatch and hairy woodpecker. In the remainder of the MA, MIS should be referenced by vegetation and landform type. For example, in ponderosa pine less than 40 percent slope, MIS are those listed for MA3.
- Maintain the major wildlife corridor that crosses Highway 180 and another corridor between Pumphouse Wash and Woody Ridge, south of Kachina Village.

Timber Land Use Classes	Acres
Nonforest	1,811
Forest land withdrawn	
Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer	3,570
Pinyon-juniper	0
Unsuitable	255
Unsuitable (physically unsuited or not capable)	4,207
Forest lands not appropriate for timber harvest	179
Suitable Timber lands	30,368
TOTAL	40,390

All of the following management direction are Guidelines.

Recreation

Areas near to residential private lands may have large numbers of people on some occasions. Daytime activities are emphasized with some designated overnight camping opportunities. Encounters with other people are frequent here, but there will still be places to "get away" and enjoy solitude.

Recreation Signing

Adjacent to residential areas improve trailhead signing, brochures and directional signing. Recreation opportunities will be somewhat "advertised," but each residential area will need to provide input on the level of information provided.

In the Semi-primitive ROS settings, informational signs and patrols will be similar to what they are today. Brochures or other information would be minimal. Recreation opportunities Semi-primitive areas will not be "advertised."

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
West

Camping

Per the *Objectives for Camping* map there should be designated dispersed camping along the Highway 89A corridor and the Freidlein Prairie Road. Expand the area where camping and campfires are prohibited. General dispersed camping should continue in the remainder of the MA.

Non-motorized and Motorized Trails

When conducting trail planning as described in the FLEA area-wide direction, include discussions and input from the County trails coordinator and local groups, as well as community citizens. Complicated access issues and a multitude of recreation demands occur here.

Balance demands for non-motorized and motorized trails and provide opportunities for both.

Focus road and trail rehabilitation work in the steep drainages, such as Pumphouse Wash, that flow into Oak Creek Canyon and contain fragile plants and rare species.

Coordinate trailhead parking with future development on adjacent private lands, in order to take advantage of the opportunity to be proactive in designing trails and trailheads to maintain access to public lands.

Special-Uses

Per the FLEA Area-wide direction, focus special use permits away from urban/residential areas. Generally, do not place additional outfitter/guide activities or group activities in Pumphouse Wash, any spring or perennial stream site, except in support of approved research and/or to improve safety or provide site rehabilitation.

Wildlife

In the Fort Valley and A-1 Mountain areas, maintain the wildlife travelway that connects A-1 Mountain, Observatory Mesa, and the slopes of the San Francisco Mountain.

Lands west of A-1 Mountain in Semi-primitive Non-motorized ROS setting maintain large tracts of unfragmented habitat for turkey and bear.

Watershed

In the Oak Creek watershed, high priority is given to minimizing soil erosion and sedimentation from Forest system roads and trails. Proper maintenance and drainage will be emphasized as well as relocating roads from meadows and obliterating unnecessary roads.

FLEA Proposed Action
Chapter Three – Management Areas
West

Where perennial stream flow is present, riparian communities should have adequate in-stream flows and adequate plant cover to protect stream banks and dissipate energy during high flows. Channel characteristics and water support natural biodiversity. Ensure adequate instream flow water rights to maintain aquatic communities and water sources for wildlife.

Fire Management

Per the FLEA Area-wide direction, reduce potential for catastrophic wildfire within the Urban/Rural Influence zone. Because of prevailing winds and steep terrain, lands south and west of the Urban/Rural Influence zone should be evaluated for wildfire risks and appropriate measures taken to reduce potential for catastrophic fire. Continue partnerships with city, county, and State fire departments to coordinate fire hazard reduction treatments, prevention, and suppression.

Coordination with Centennial Forest

Some of the State Land parcels in this MA are Centennial Forest. Coordinate with the Director of the Centennial Forest when conducting management activities on adjacent National Forest lands.

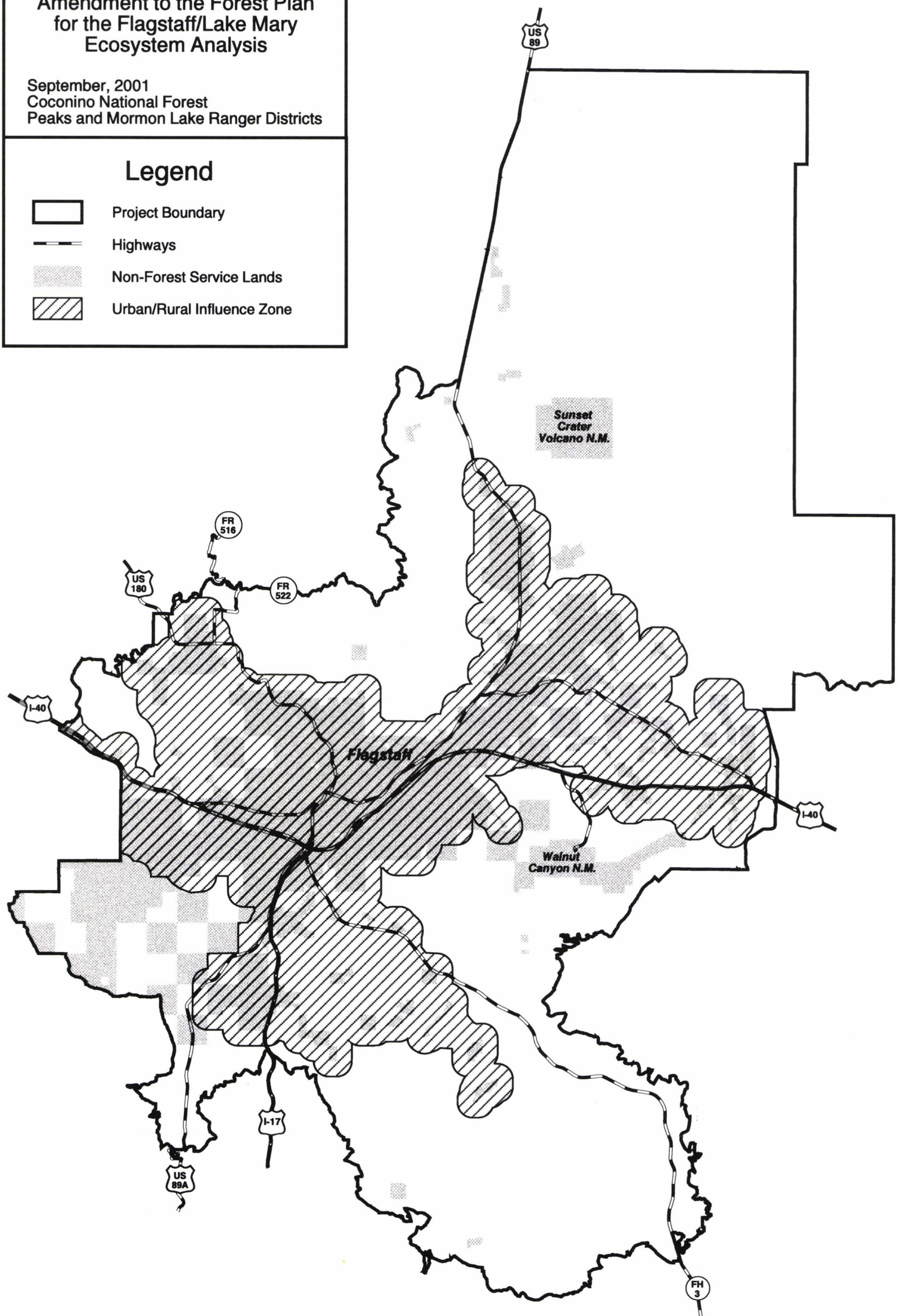


Proposed Action for
Amendment to the Forest Plan
for the Flagstaff/Lake Mary
Ecosystem Analysis

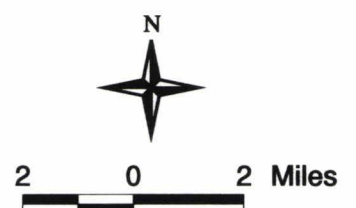
September, 2001
Coconino National Forest
Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger Districts

Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Highways
-  Non-Forest Service Lands
-  Urban/Rural Influence Zone



Proposed Urban/Rural
Influence Zone



Proposed Action for Amendment to the Forest Plan for the Flagstaff/Lake Mary Ecosystem Analysis

September, 2001
Coconino National Forest
Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger Districts

Legend



Project Boundary



Highways



Non-Forest Service Lands

ROS Objectives



Roaded Natural



Semi-Primitive Motorized



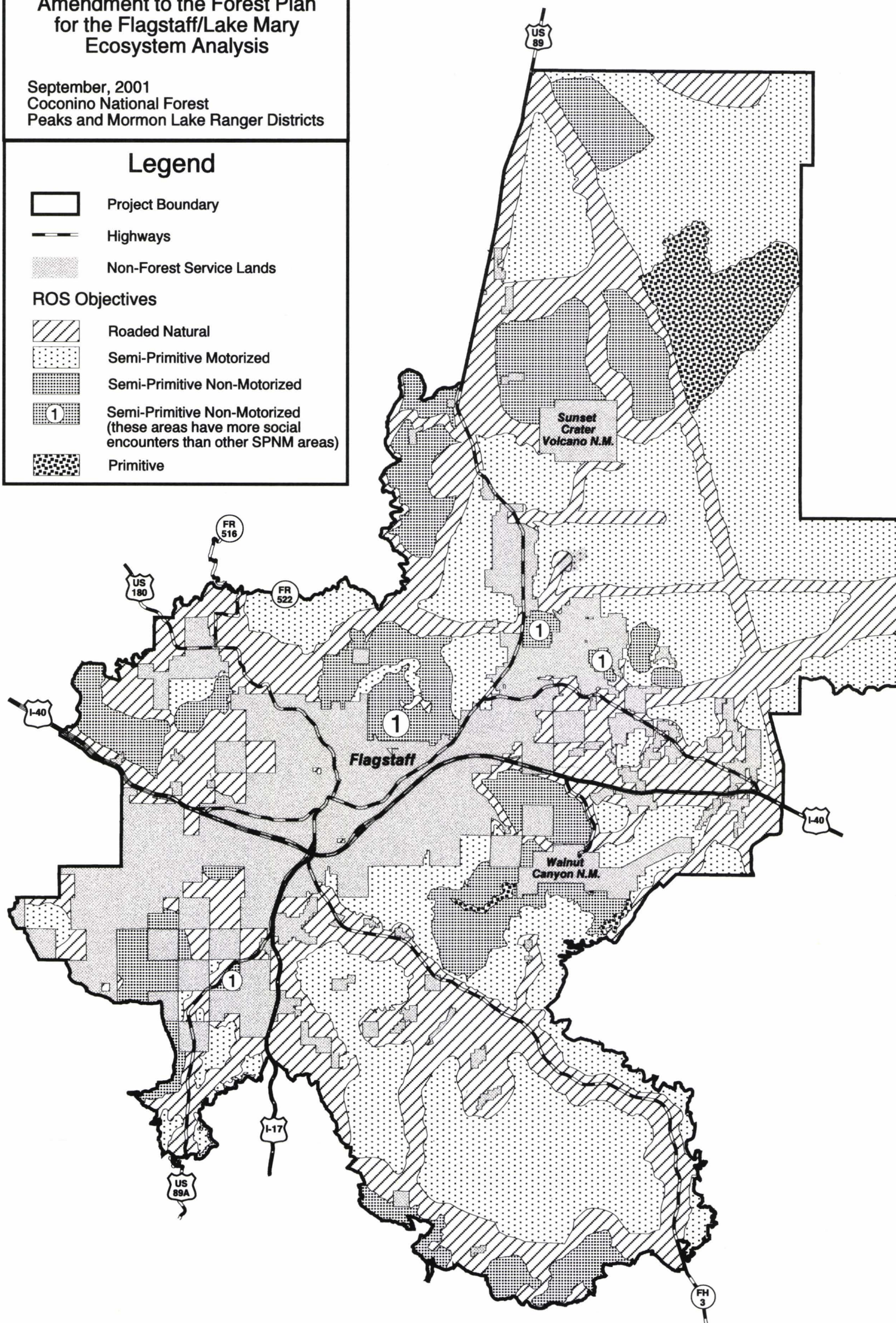
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized



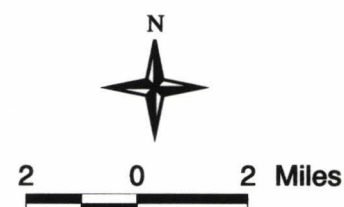
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized
(these areas have more social
encounters than other SPNM areas)



Primitive



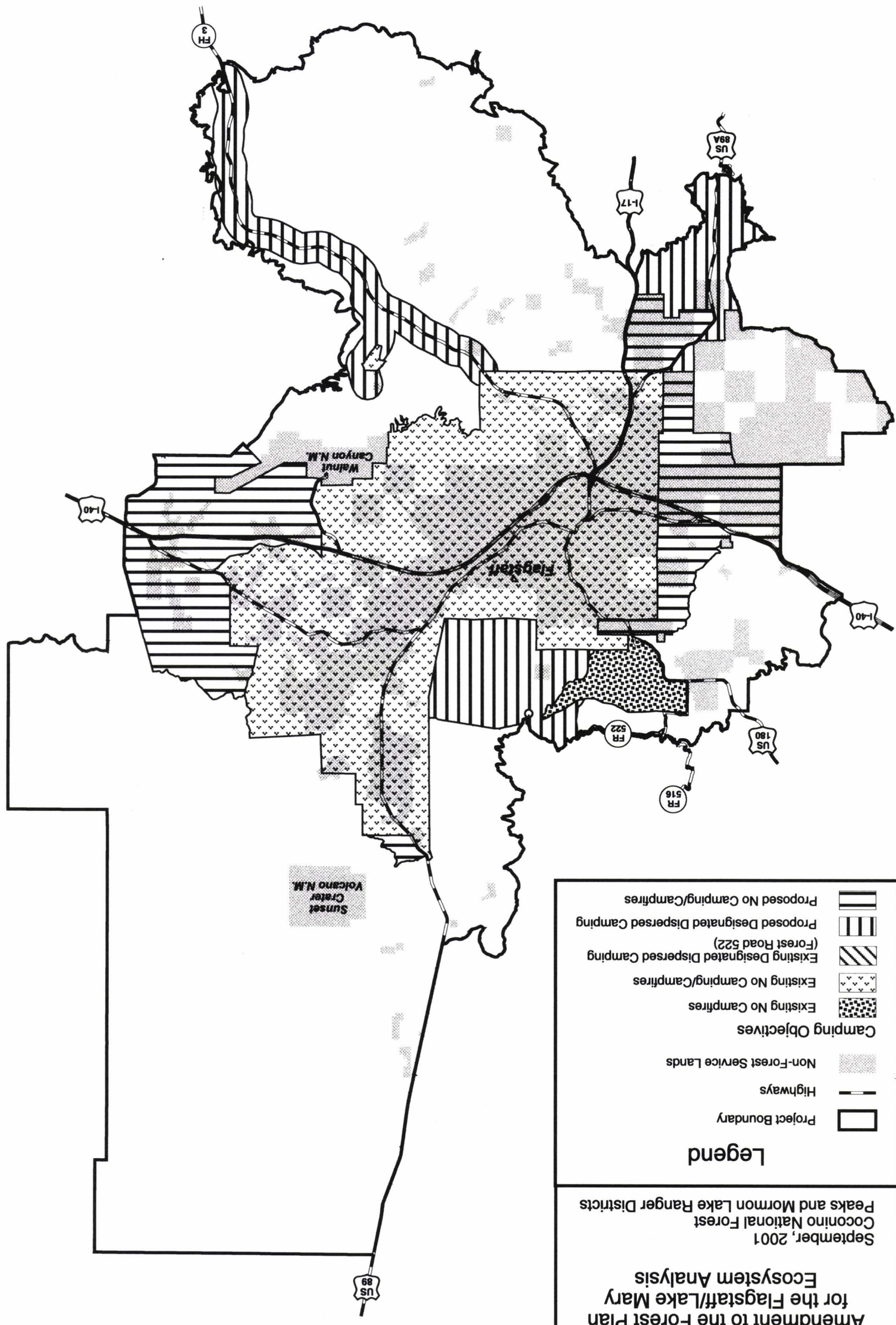
Proposed Objectives for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum



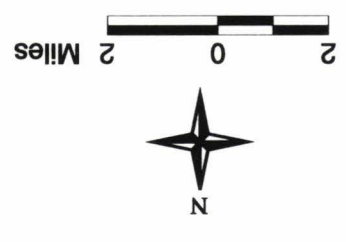
Proposed Action for
Amendment to the Forest Plan
for the Flagstaff/Lake Mary
Ecosystem Analysis
September, 2001
Coconino National Forest
Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger Districts

Legend

	Project Boundary
	Highways
	Non-Forest Service Lands
Camping Objectives	
	Existing No Campfires
	Existing No Camping/Campfires
	Existing Designated Dispersed Camping (Forest Road 522)
	Proposed Designated Dispersed Camping
	Proposed No Camping/Campfires



Proposed Objectives for Camping

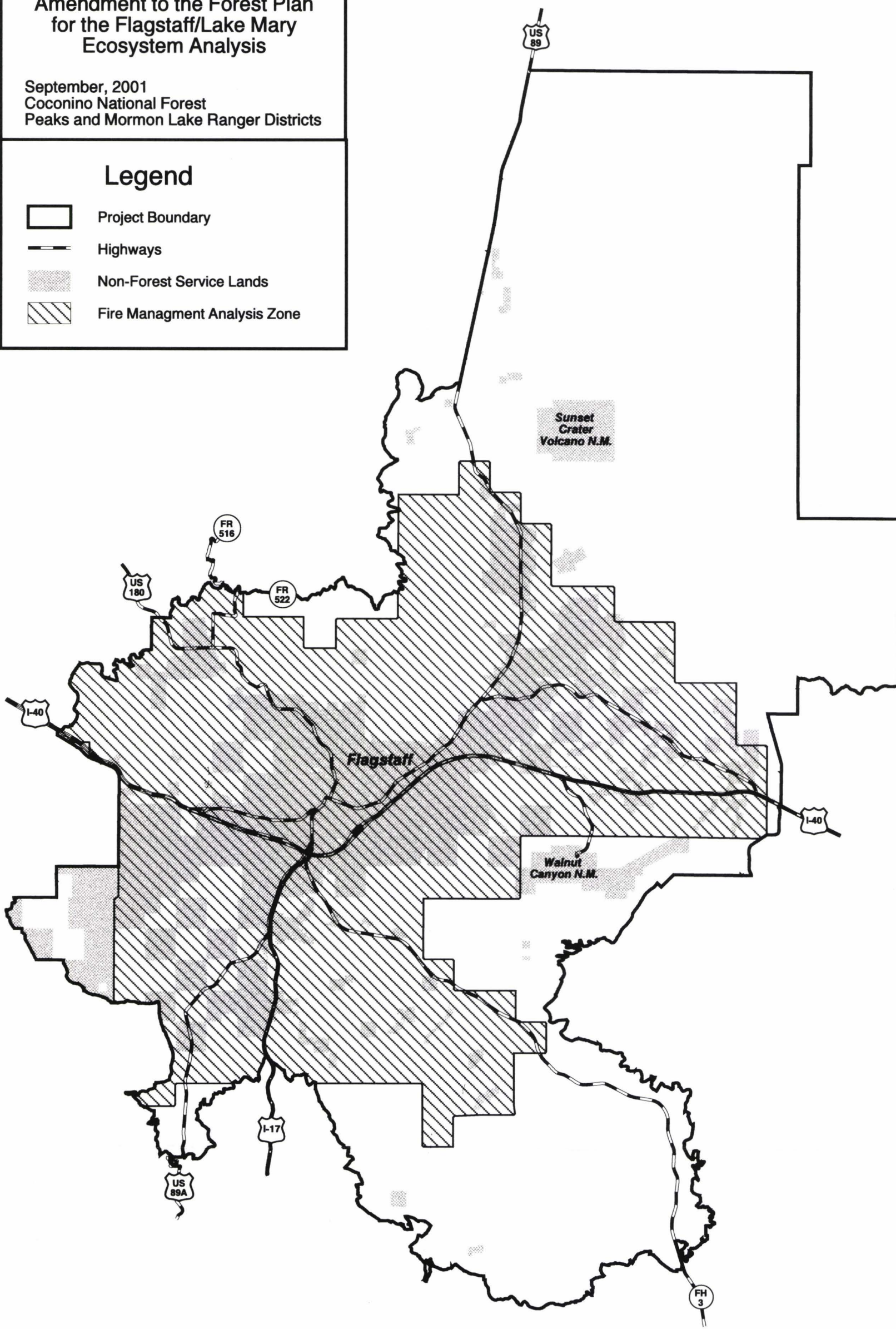


Proposed Action for
Amendment to the Forest Plan
for the Flagstaff/Lake Mary
Ecosystem Analysis

September, 2001
Coconino National Forest
Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger Districts

Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Highways
-  Non-Forest Service Lands
-  Fire Managment Analysis Zone



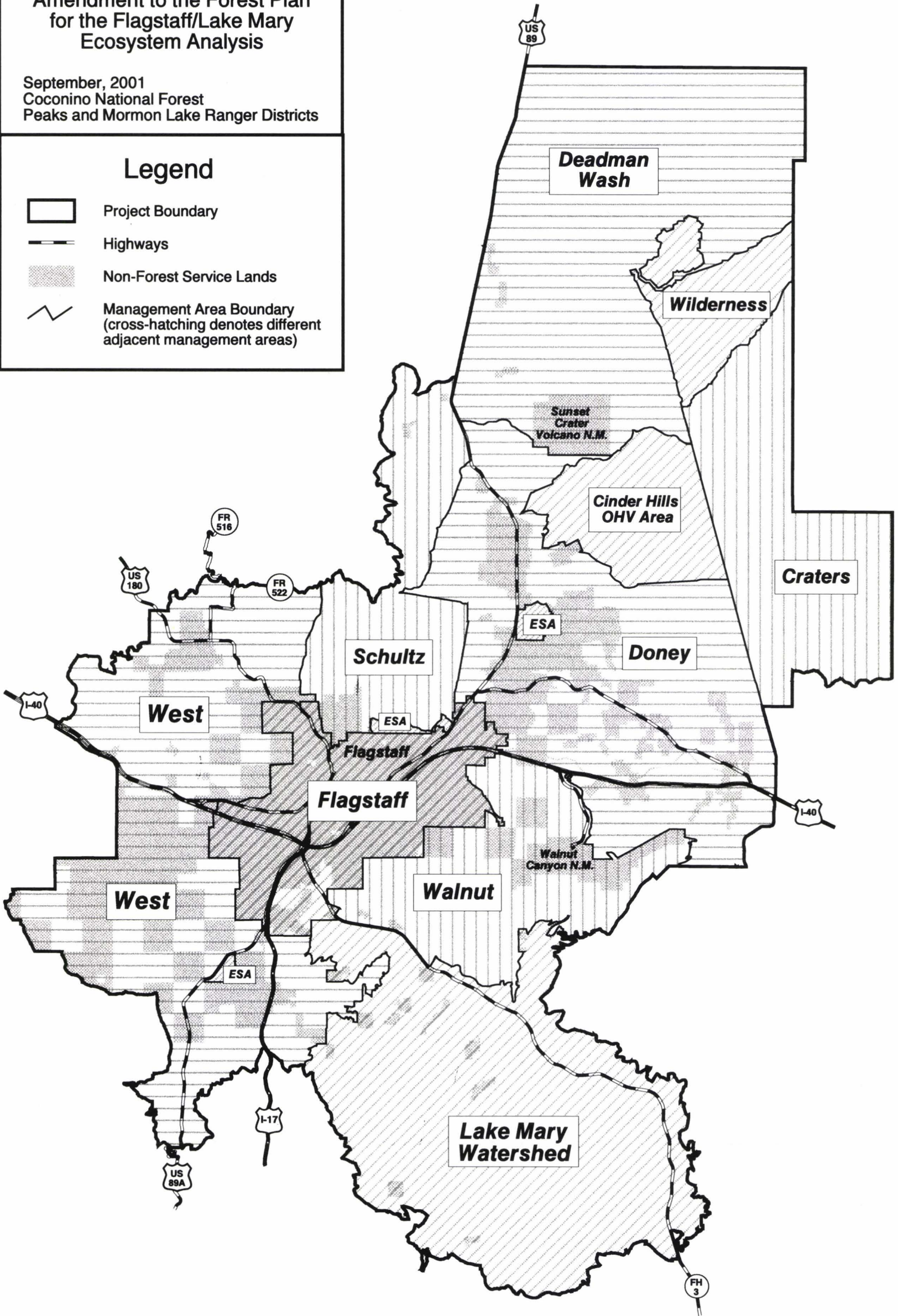
Fire Management Analysis Zone

Proposed Action for
Amendment to the Forest Plan
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Ecosystem Analysis

September, 2001
Coconino National Forest
Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger Districts

Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Highways
-  Non-Forest Service Lands
-  Management Area Boundary
(cross-hatching denotes different adjacent management areas)



Proposed Management Areas

